

Archie
ADVENTURE
SERIES

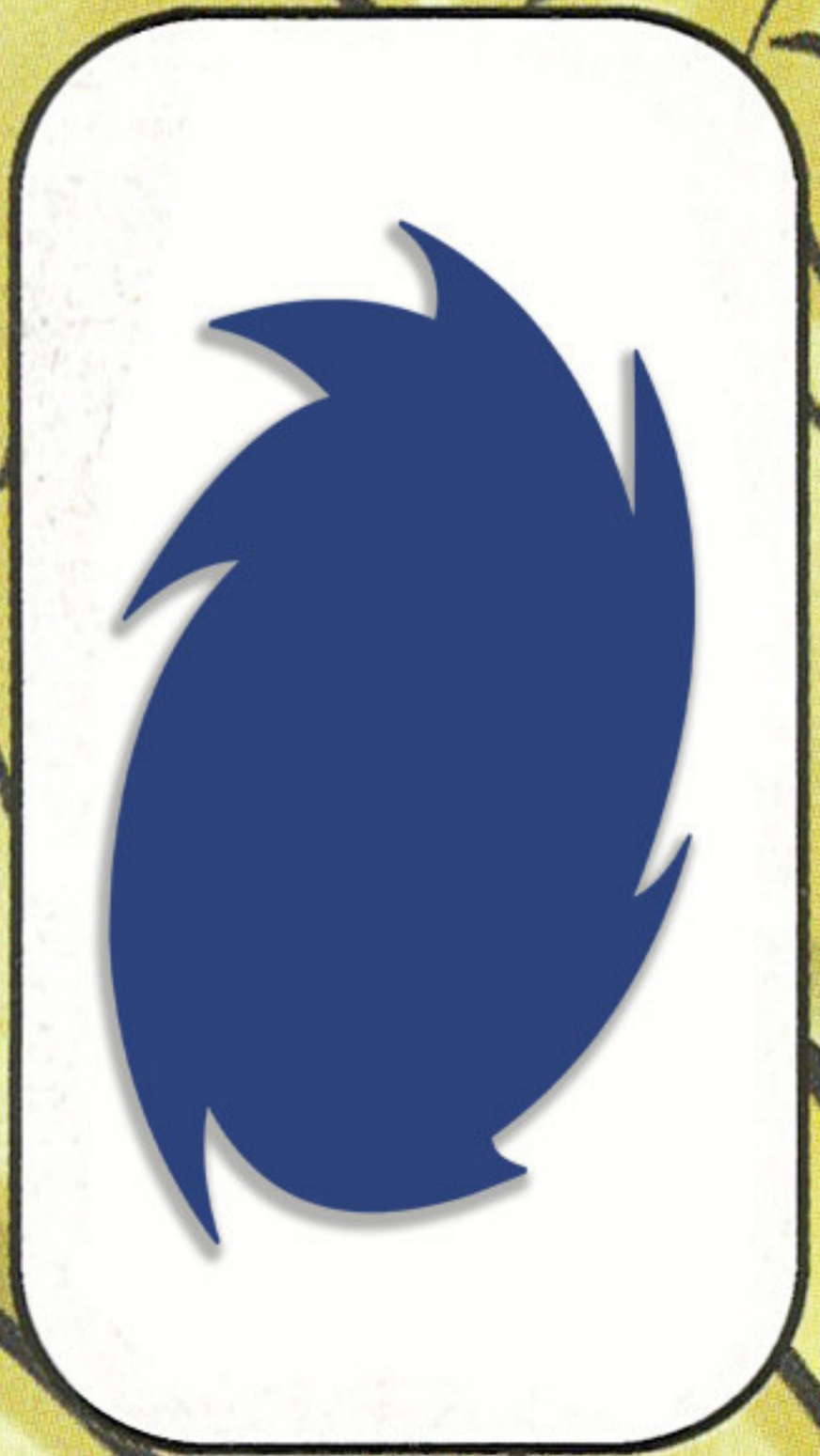
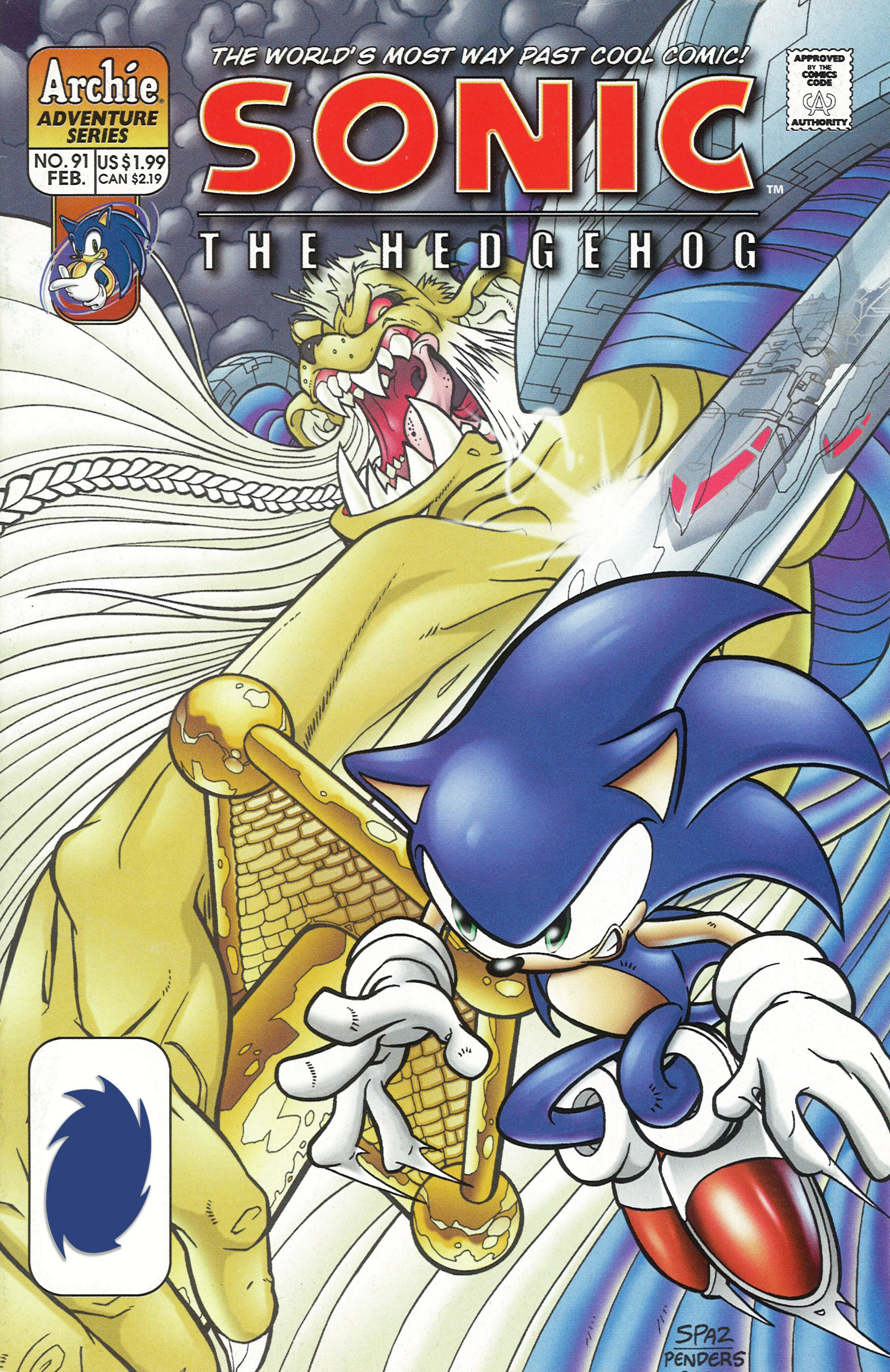
NO. 91 US \$1.99
FEB. CAN \$2.19

THE WORLD'S MOST WAY PAST COOL COMIC!

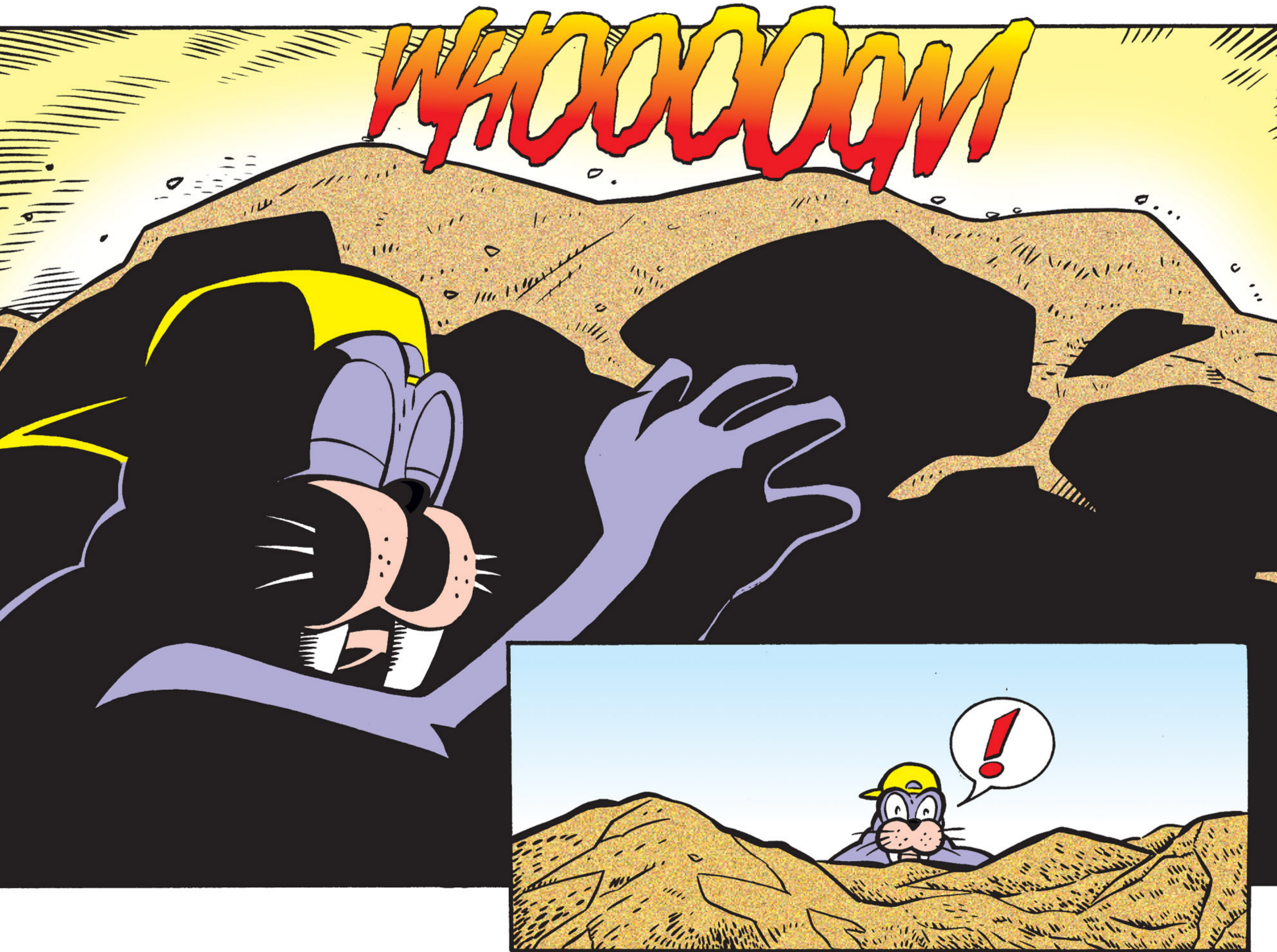
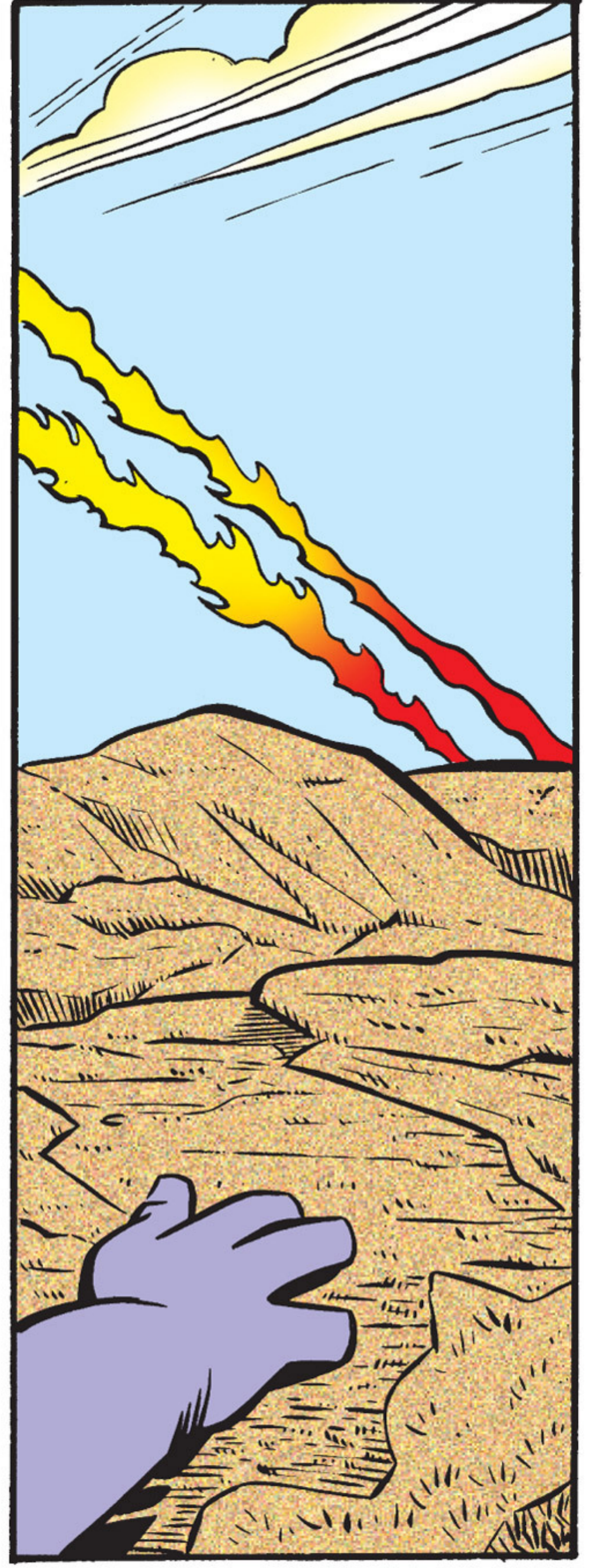
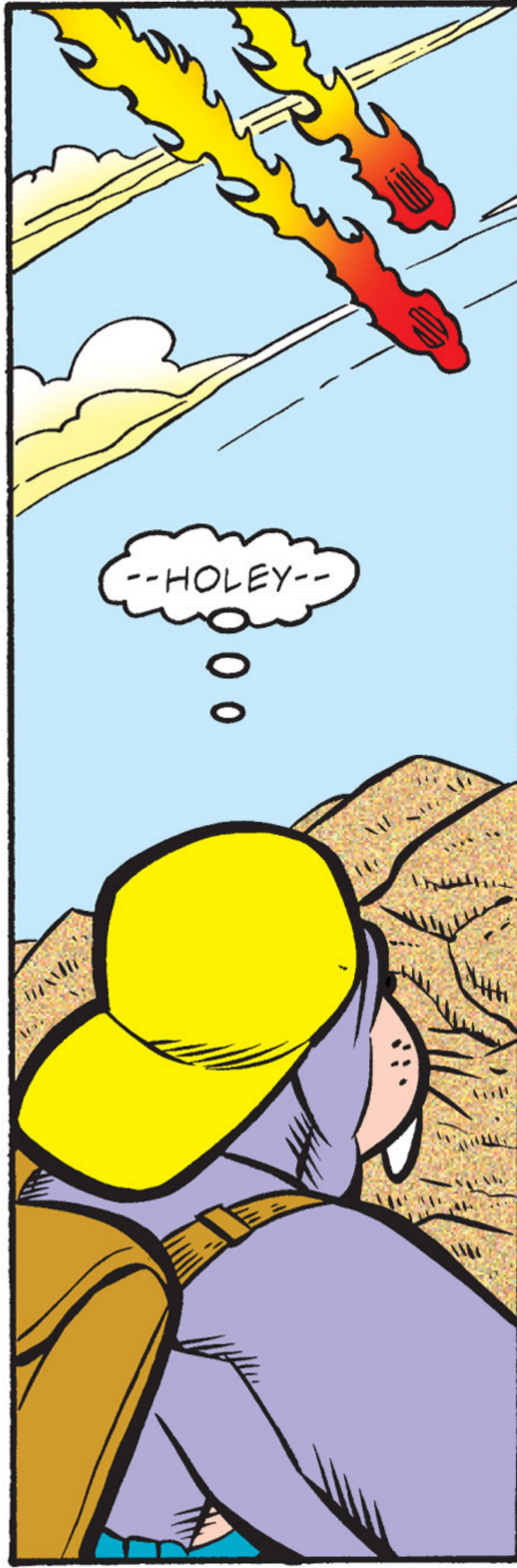
SONIC



T H E H E D G E H O G



SPAZ
PENDERS



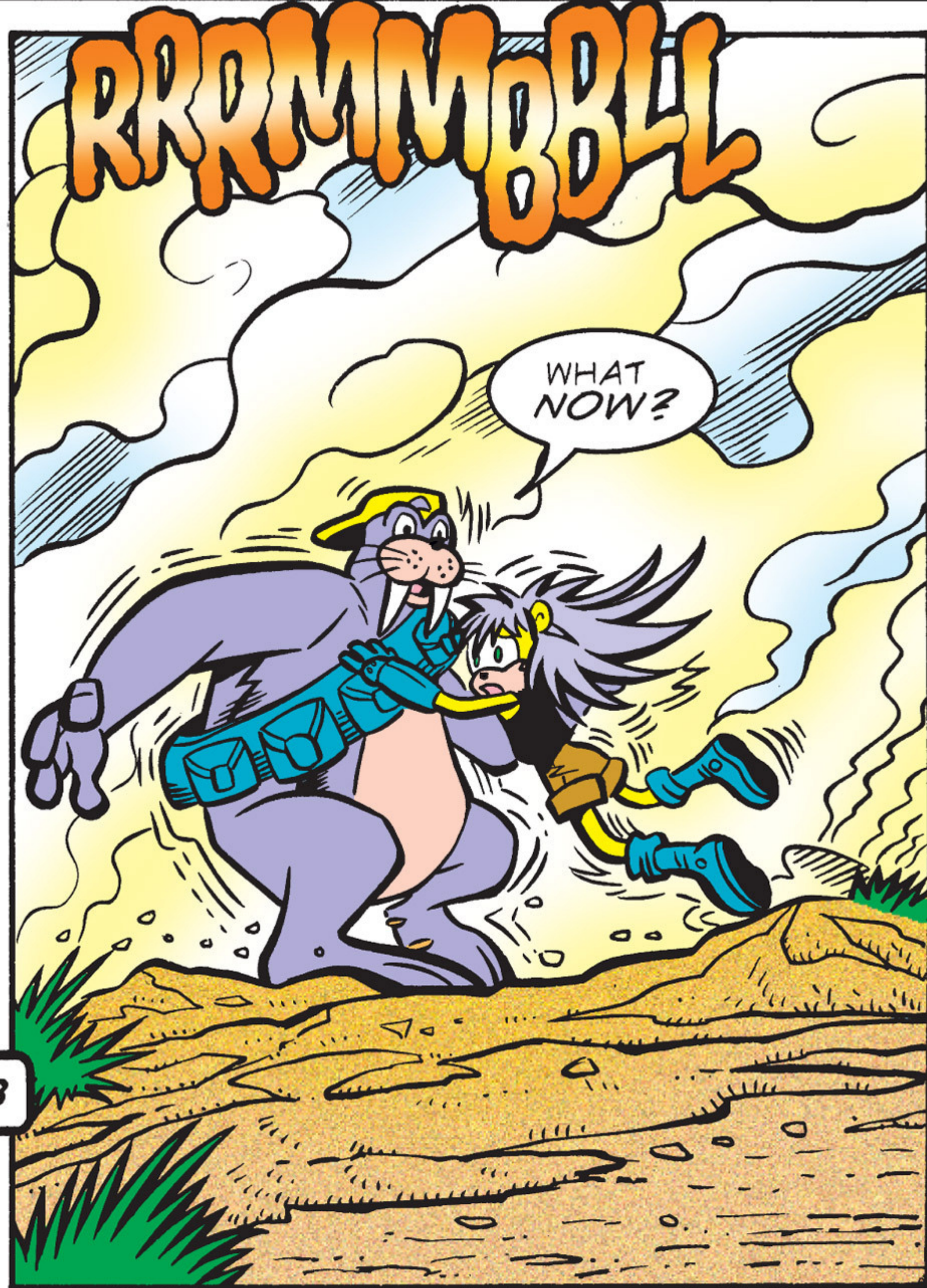
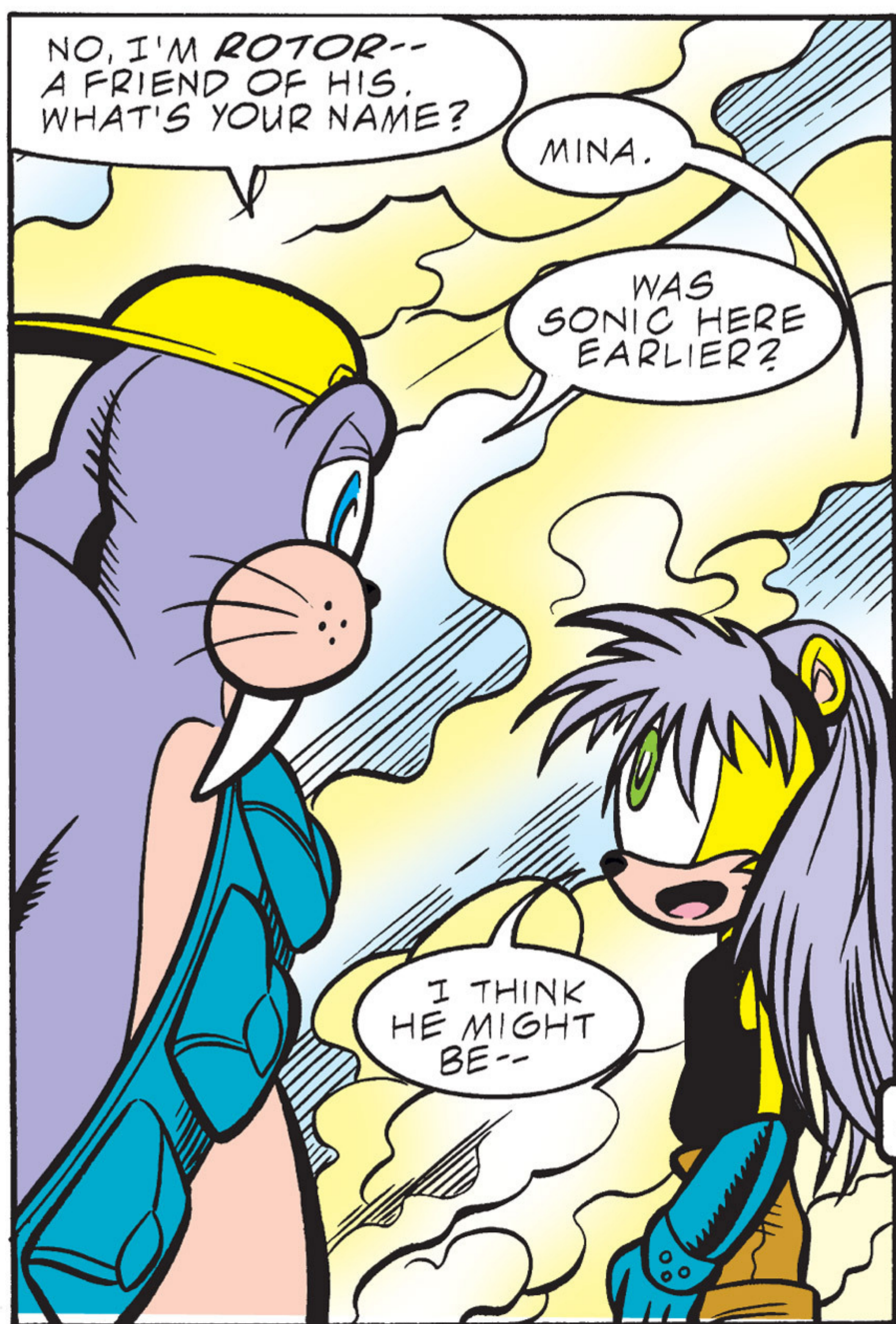
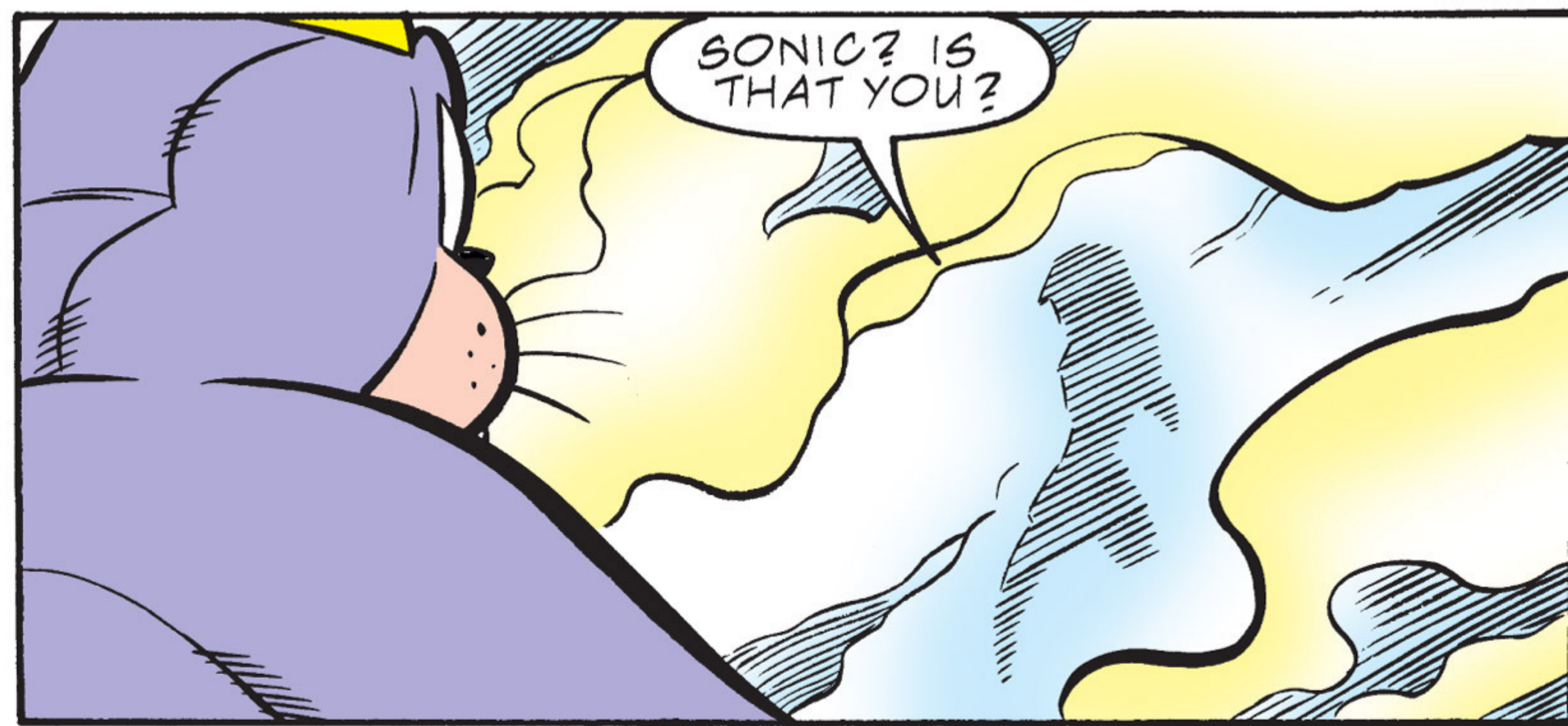
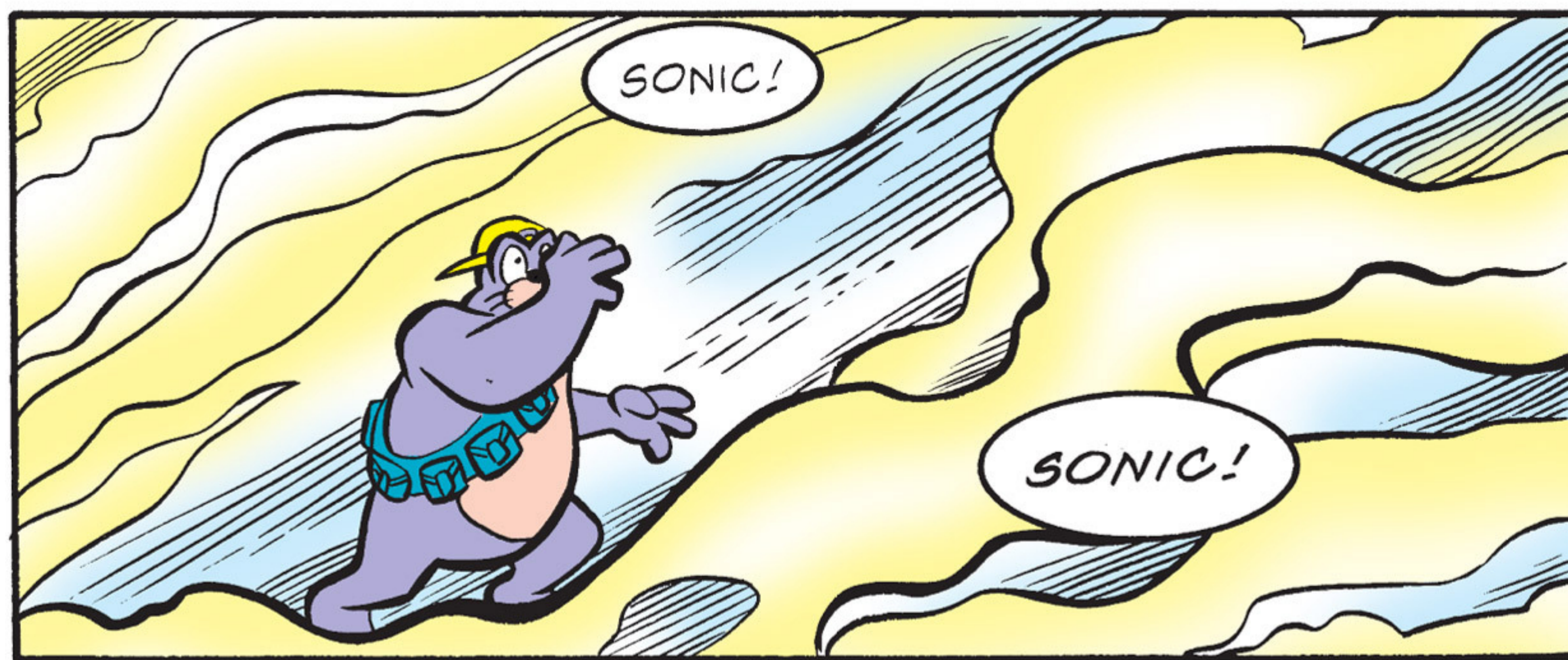
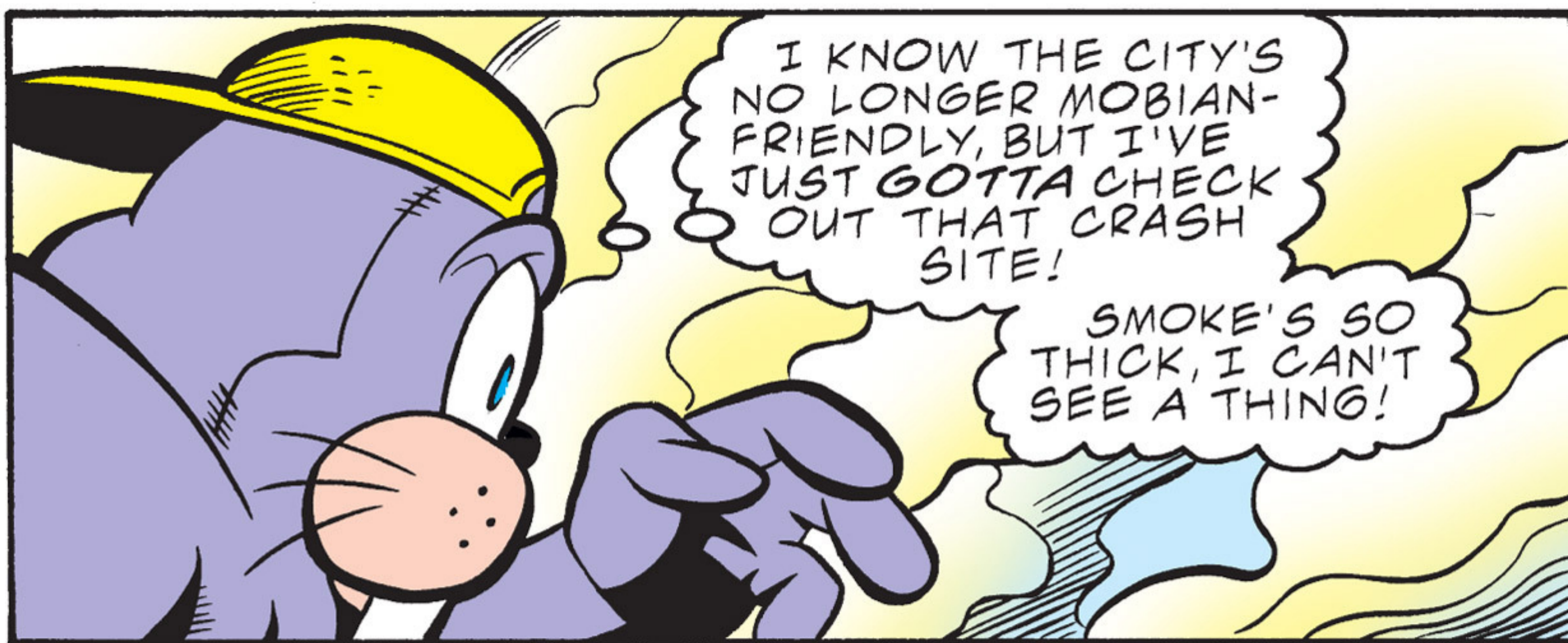
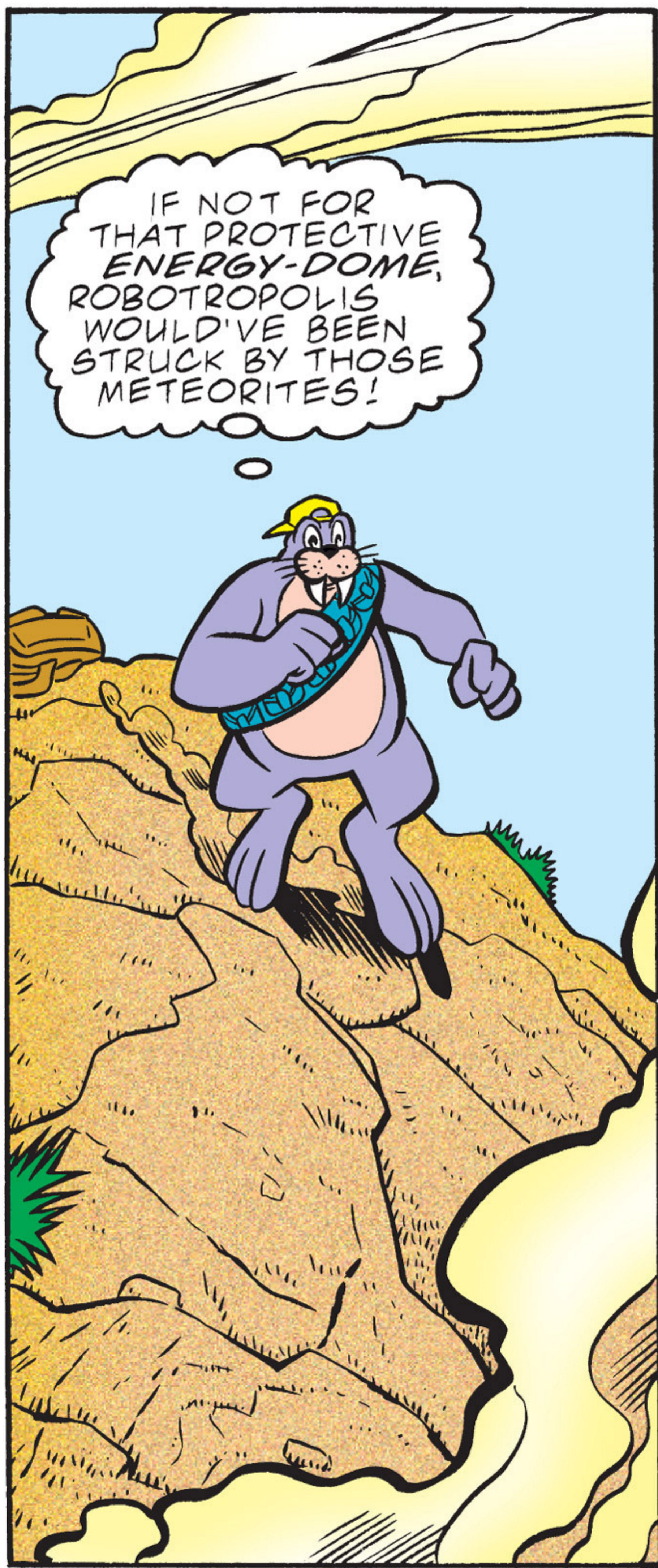
After ten long years, the iron-fisted rule of DOCTOR ROBOTNIK over planet MOBIUS was believed to have finally ended! With the technological tyrant vanquished and his polluted factories shut down, order and beauty were restored to the city of MOBOTROPOLIS. Now the villain has returned to wreak havoc once more, but there are many who are willing to stand against him in the fight for freedom. The bravest among them is a brash, blue streak who just happens to be the fastest thing alive! ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... SONIC THE HEDGEHOG!

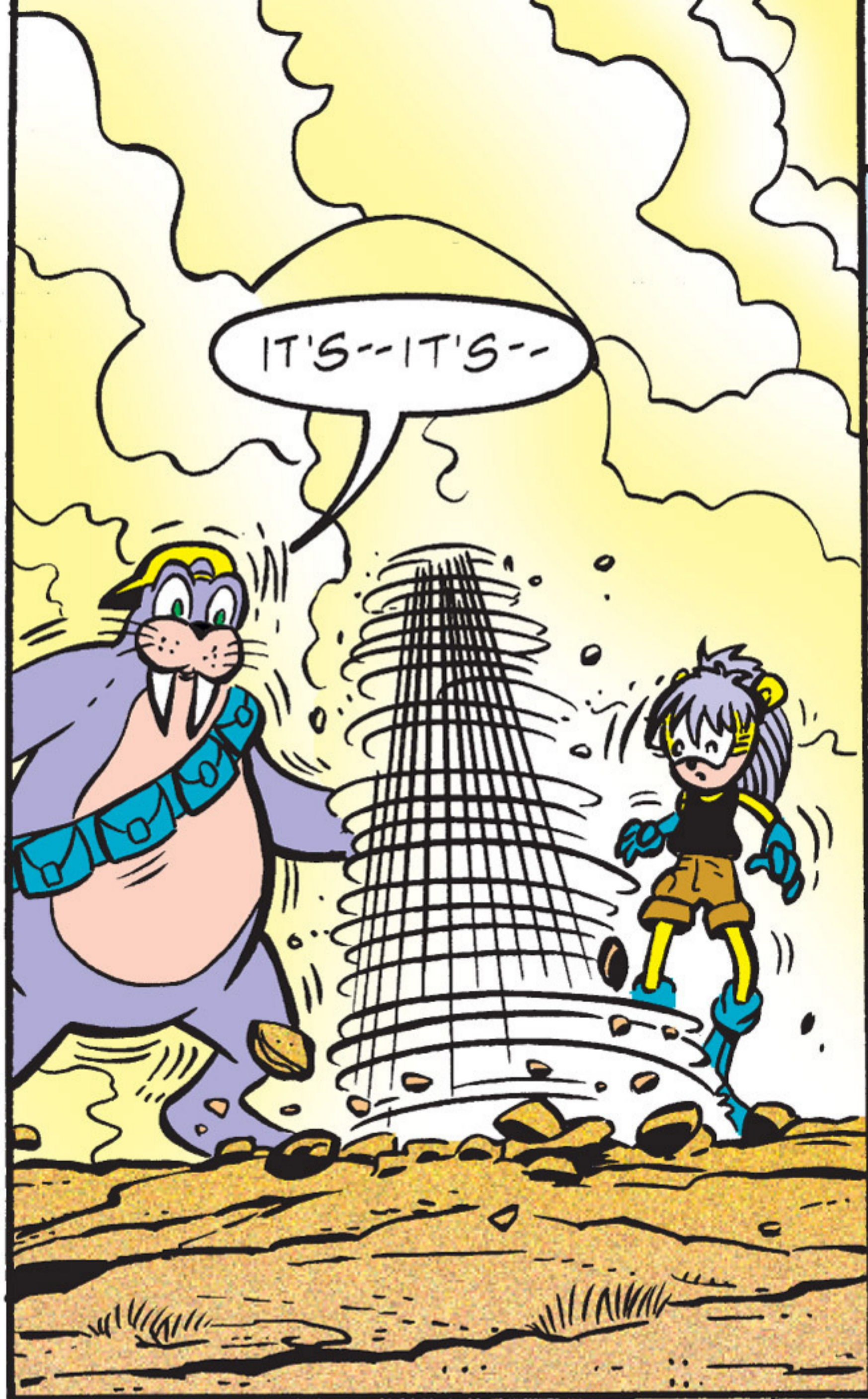
CRASH!

WOW!

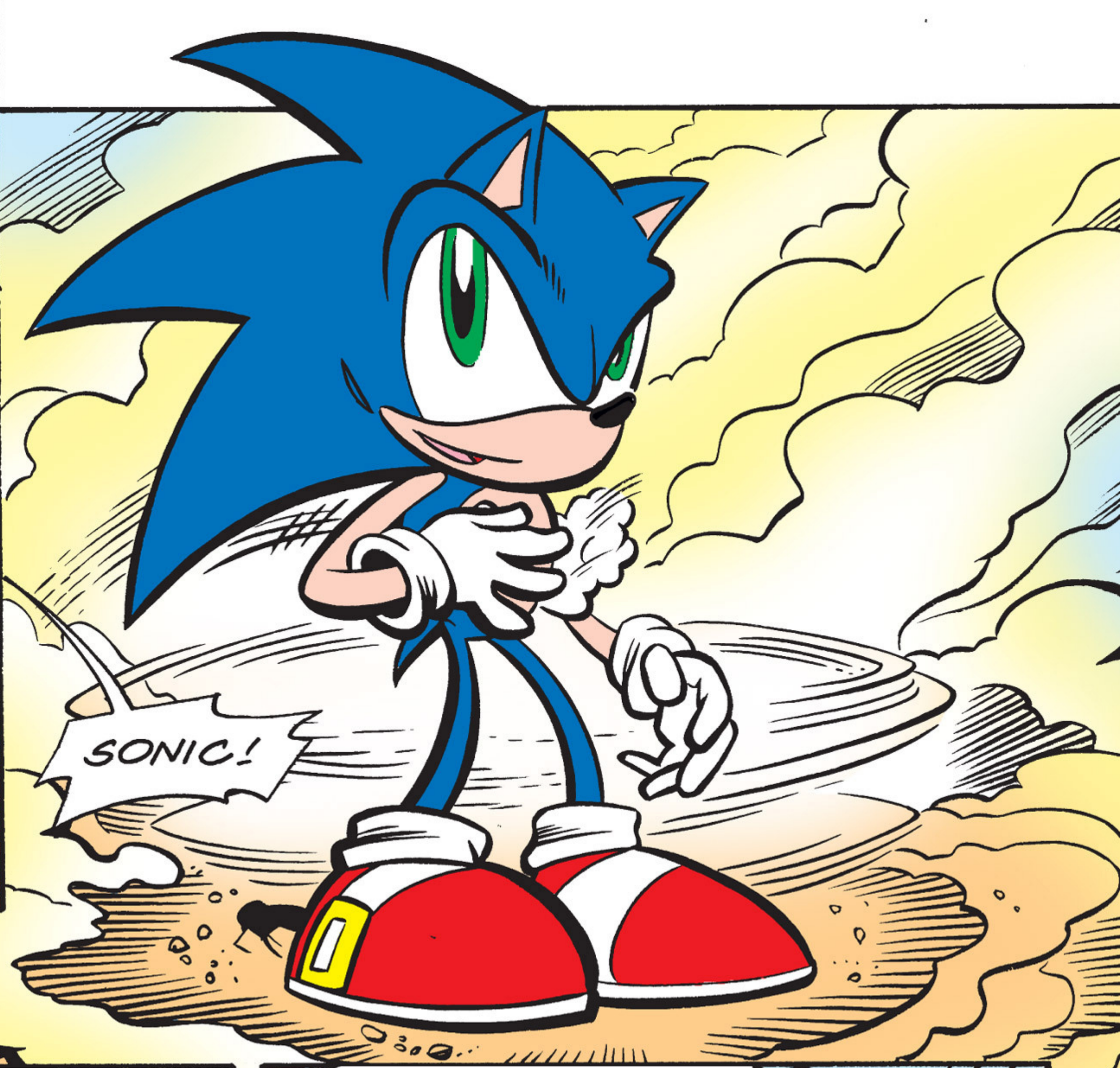
KARL BOLLERS - WRITER
RON LIM - PENCILS
JIM AMASH - INKER
J. POWELL - LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO
COLORIST
J.F. GABRIE
EDITOR/ART DIRECTOR
VICTOR GORELICK
MANAGING EDITOR
RICHARD GOLDWATER
EDITOR-IN-CHIEF

SONIC THE HEDGEHOG (issn:10705090), No. 91, Feb., 2001. Published monthly by Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Richard H. Goldwater, President and Co-Publisher, Michael I. Silberkleit, Chairman and Co-Publisher. Single copies \$1.99 in the U.S.; \$2.19 in Canada. Subscription rate: U.S. \$23.88 for 12 issues; \$26.28 in Canada. All Canadian orders payable in U.S. funds. Sega is registered in the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Sega, Sonic The Hedgehog and all related characters and indicia are trademark of SEGA. Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc., P.O. Box 7654, San Francisco, CA 94120-7654. copyright © 2000 SEGA. All Rights Reserved. The product is manufactured under a license from Sega of America Dreamcast, Inc. Any similarities between characters, names, persons, and/or institutions in this book and any living, dead, or fictional characters, names, persons, and/or institutions are not intended and if they exist, are purely coincidental. Periodicals postage paid at the post office at Mamaroneck, New York and at additional mailing offices. Title registered in U.S. patent office. POSTMASTER, send address changes to SONIC THE HEDGEHOG, c/o Archie Comic Publications, Inc., 325 Fayette Avenue, Mamaroneck, NY 10543-2318. Printed in Canada

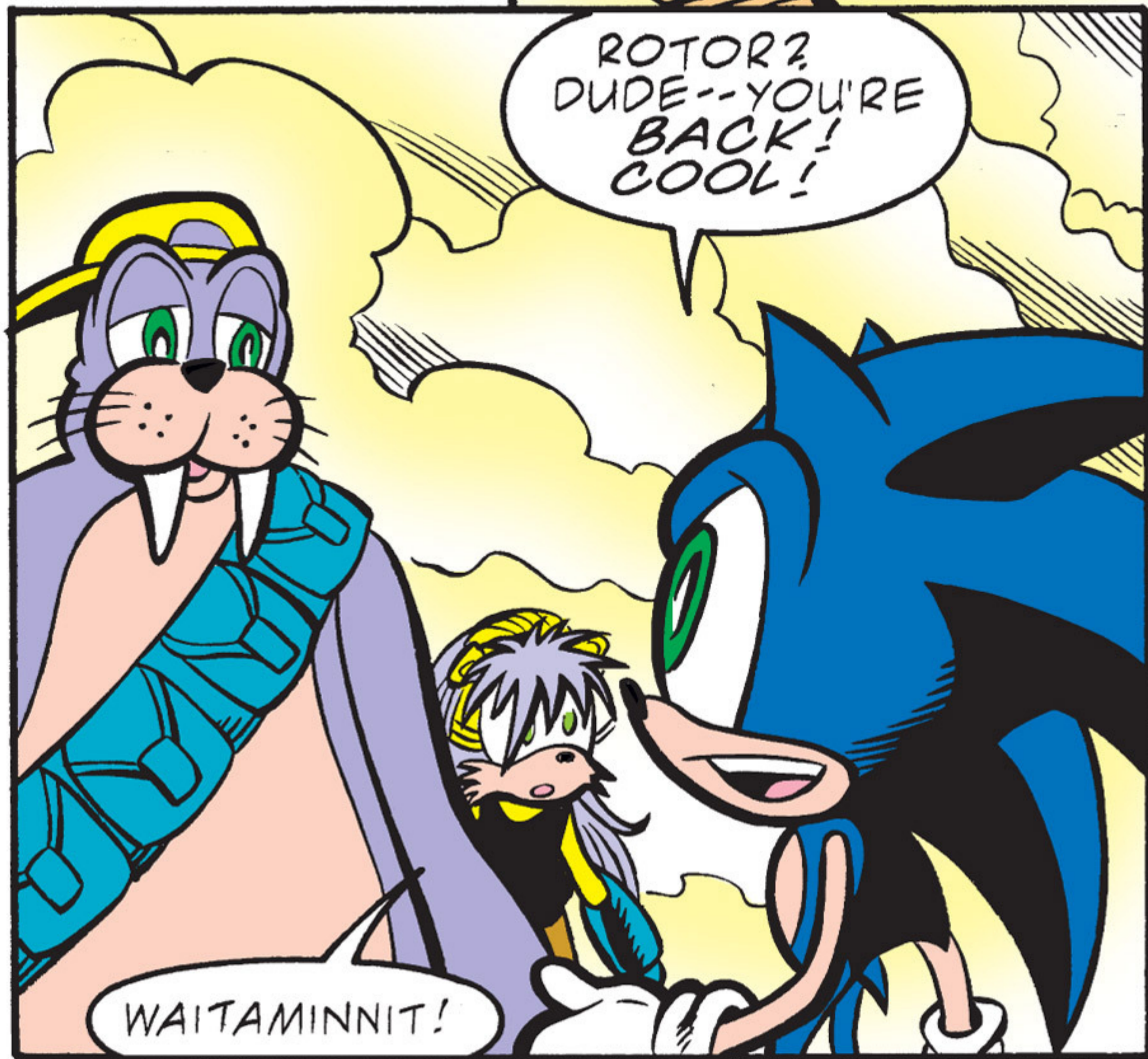




IT'S--IT'S--



SONIC!

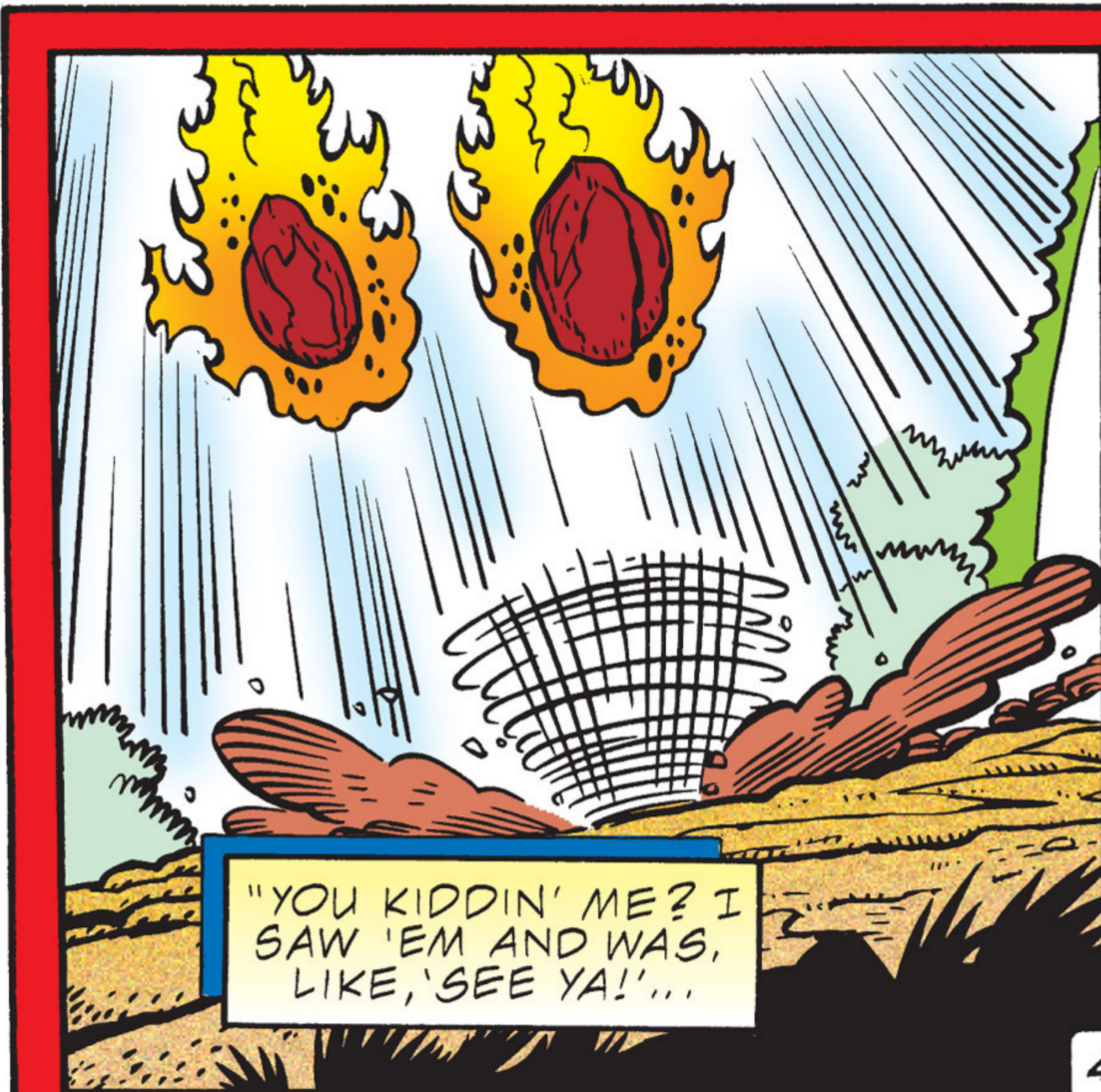


ROTOR? DUDE--YOU'RE BACK! COOL!

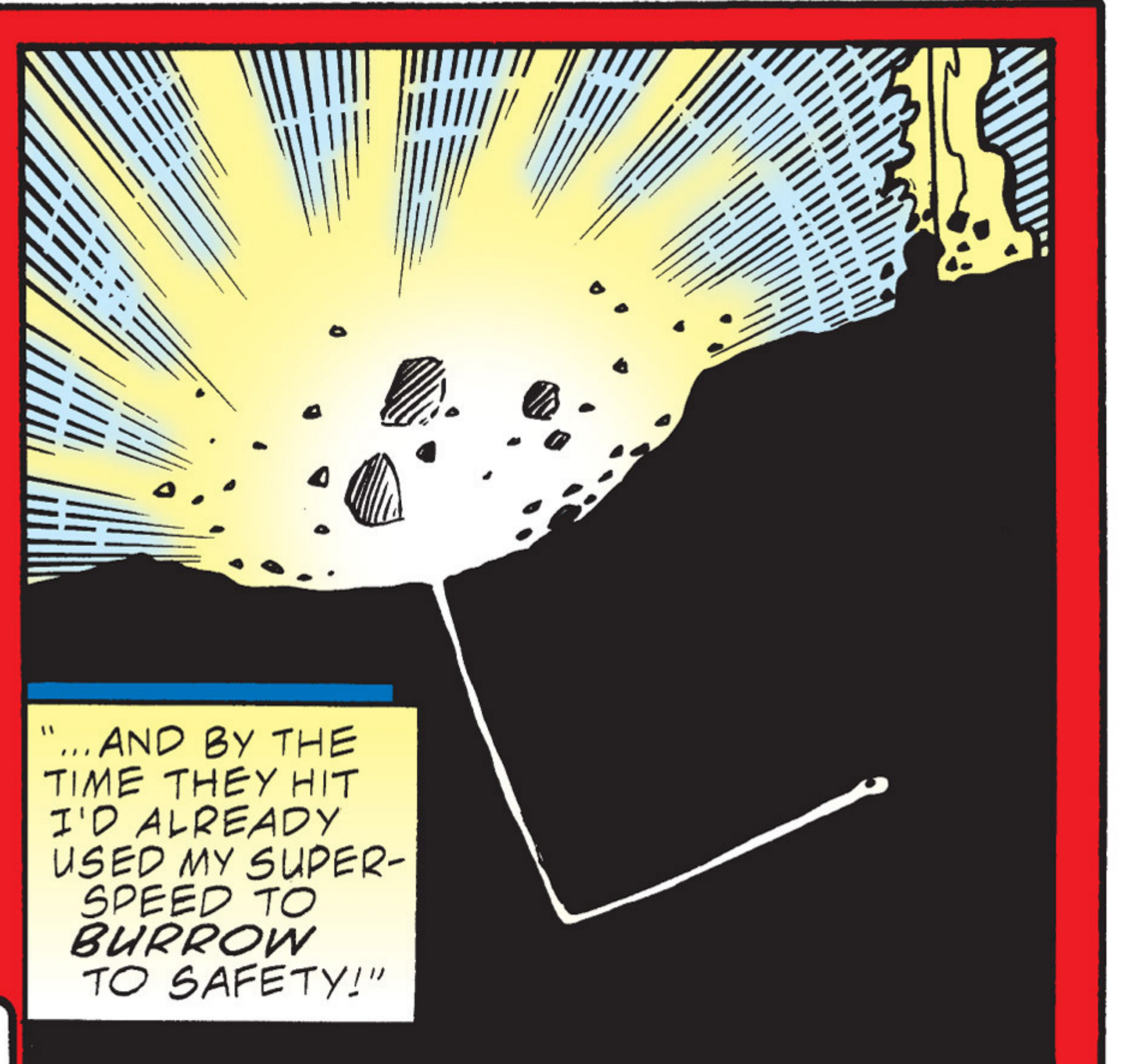
WAITAMINNIT!



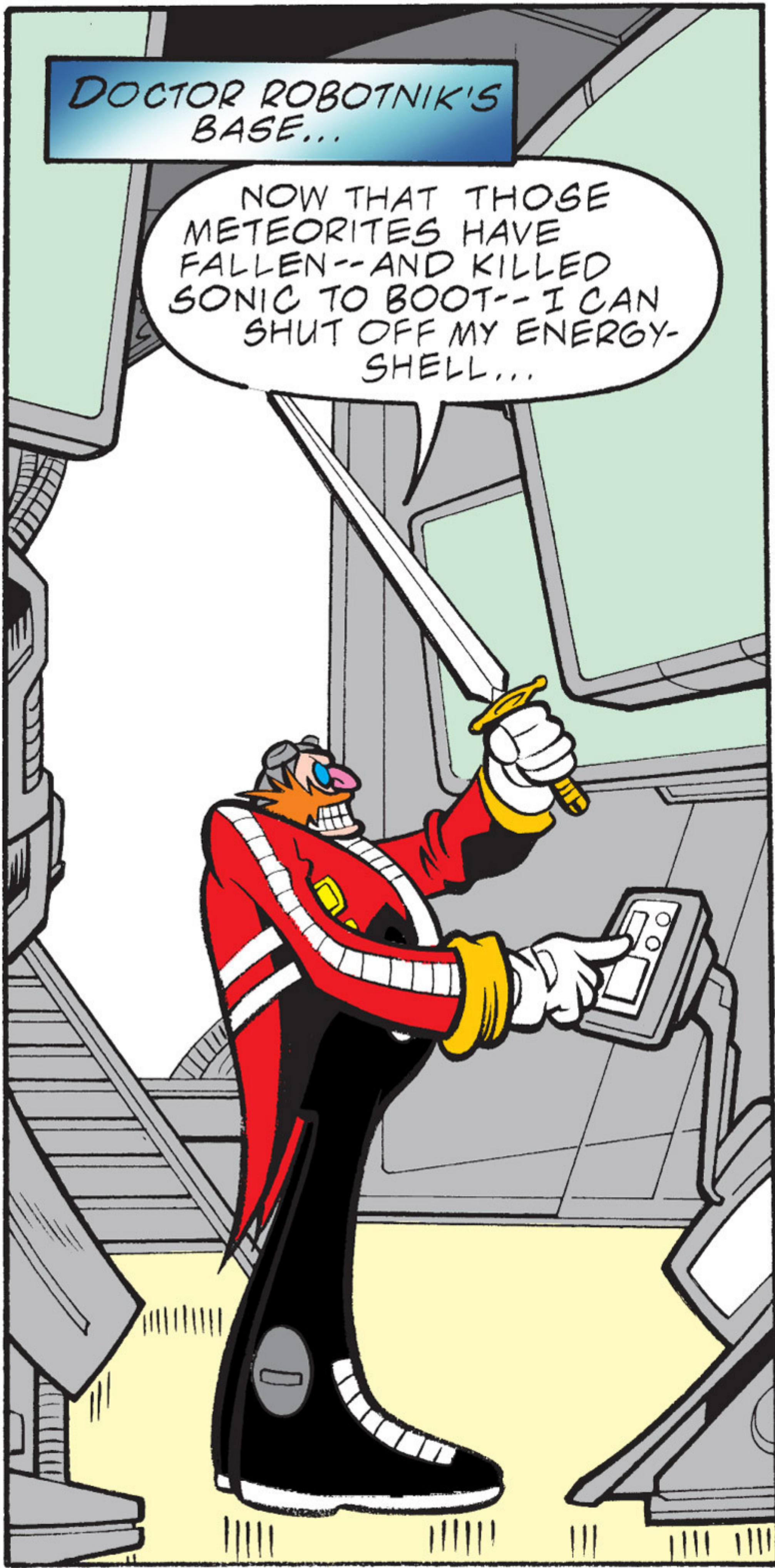
IS THAT IT? TWO GIANT... THINGIES FALL FROM THE SKY AND YOU SAY "COOL"? HOW'D YOU SURVIVE?



"YOU KIDDIN' ME? I SAW 'EM AND WAS, LIKE, 'SEE YA!'..."

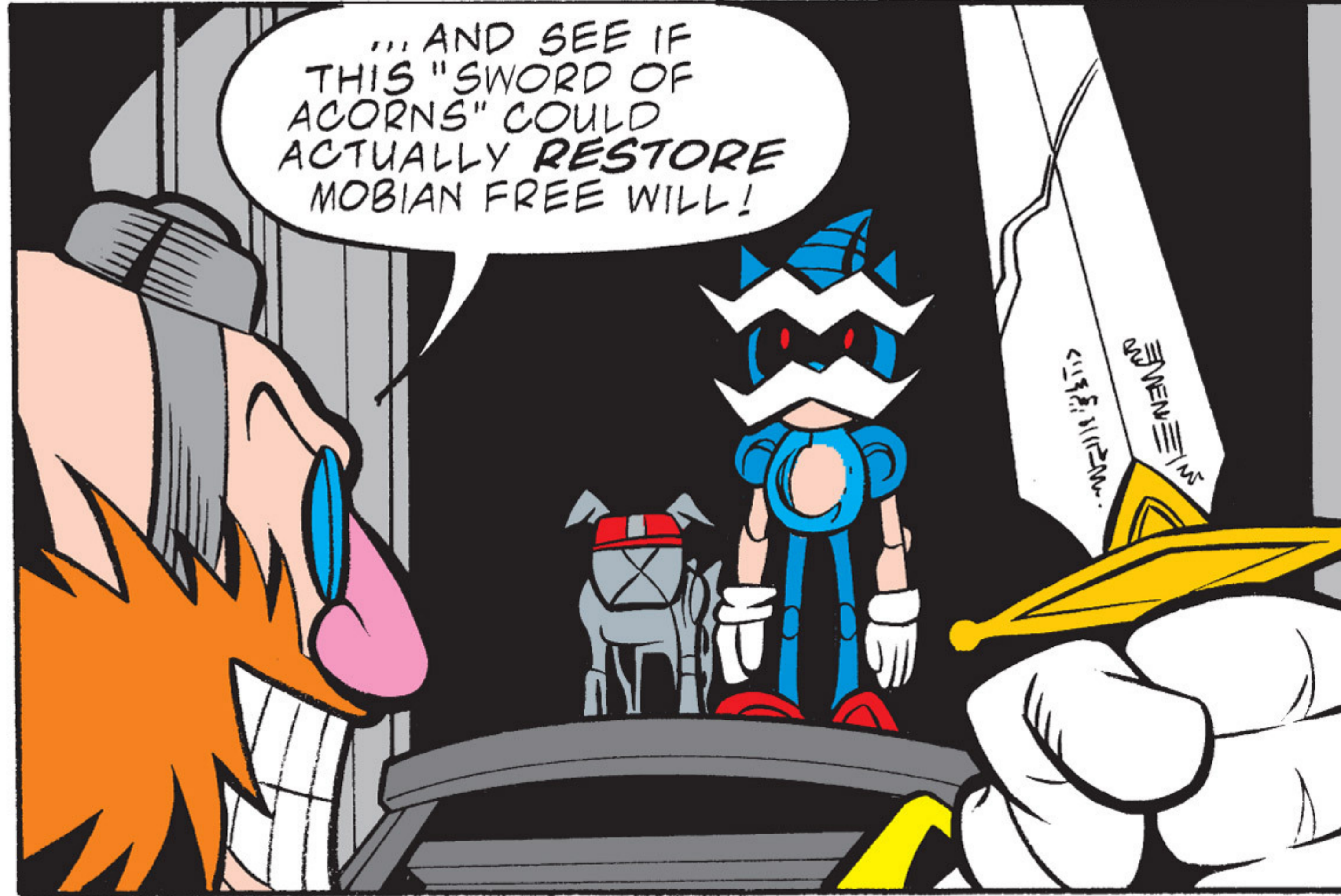


"...AND BY THE TIME THEY HIT I'D ALREADY USED MY SUPER-SPEED TO BURROW TO SAFETY!"

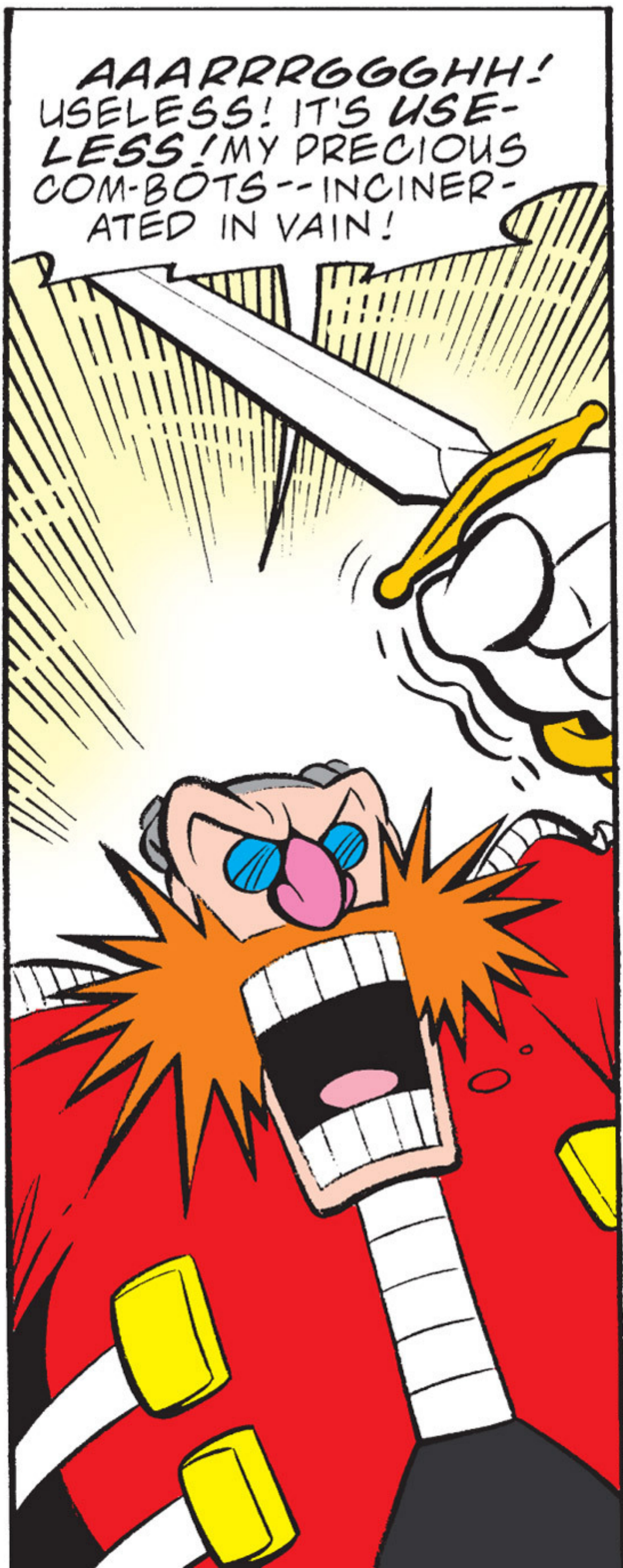
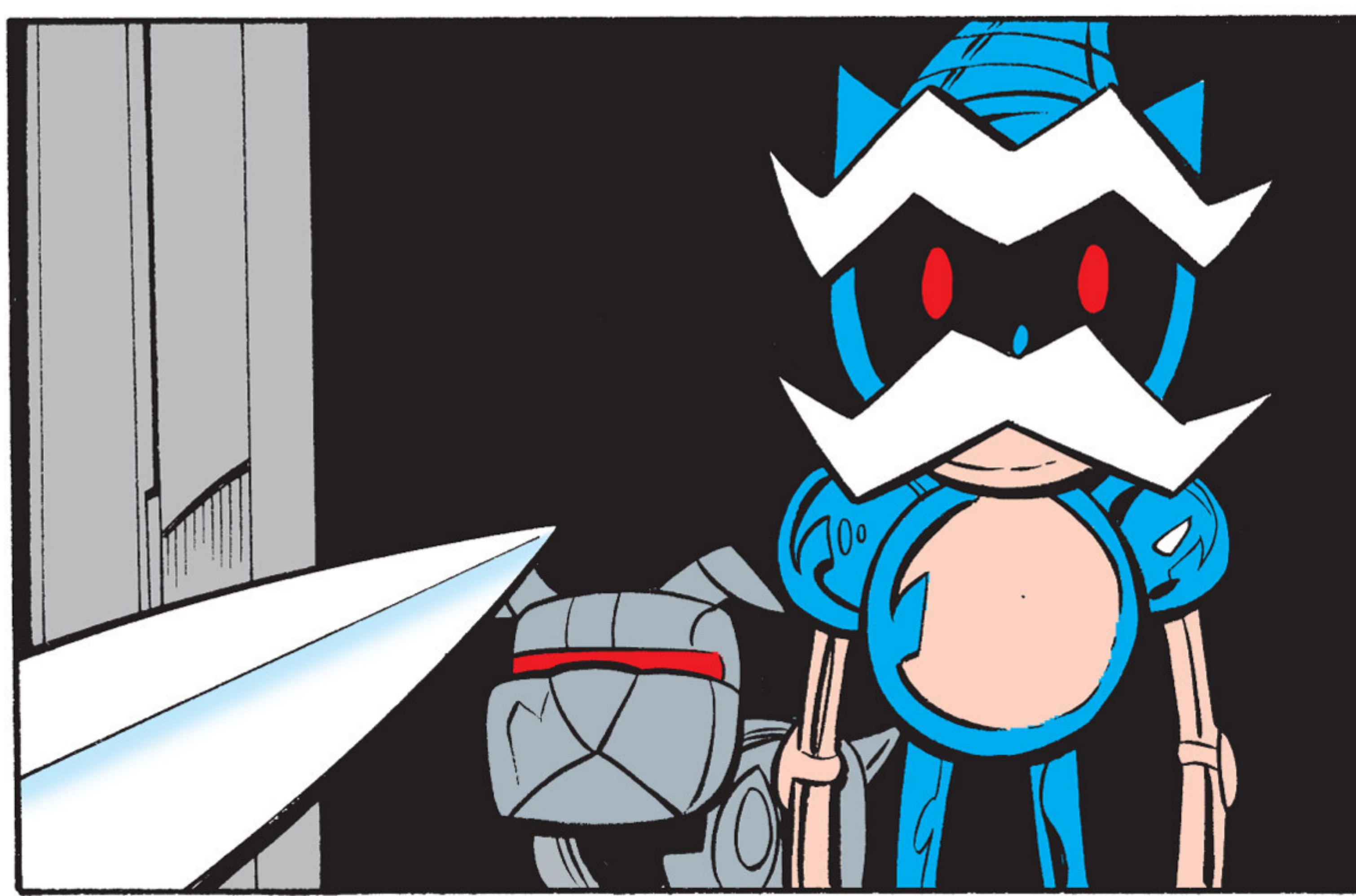


DOCTOR ROBOTNIK'S
BASE...

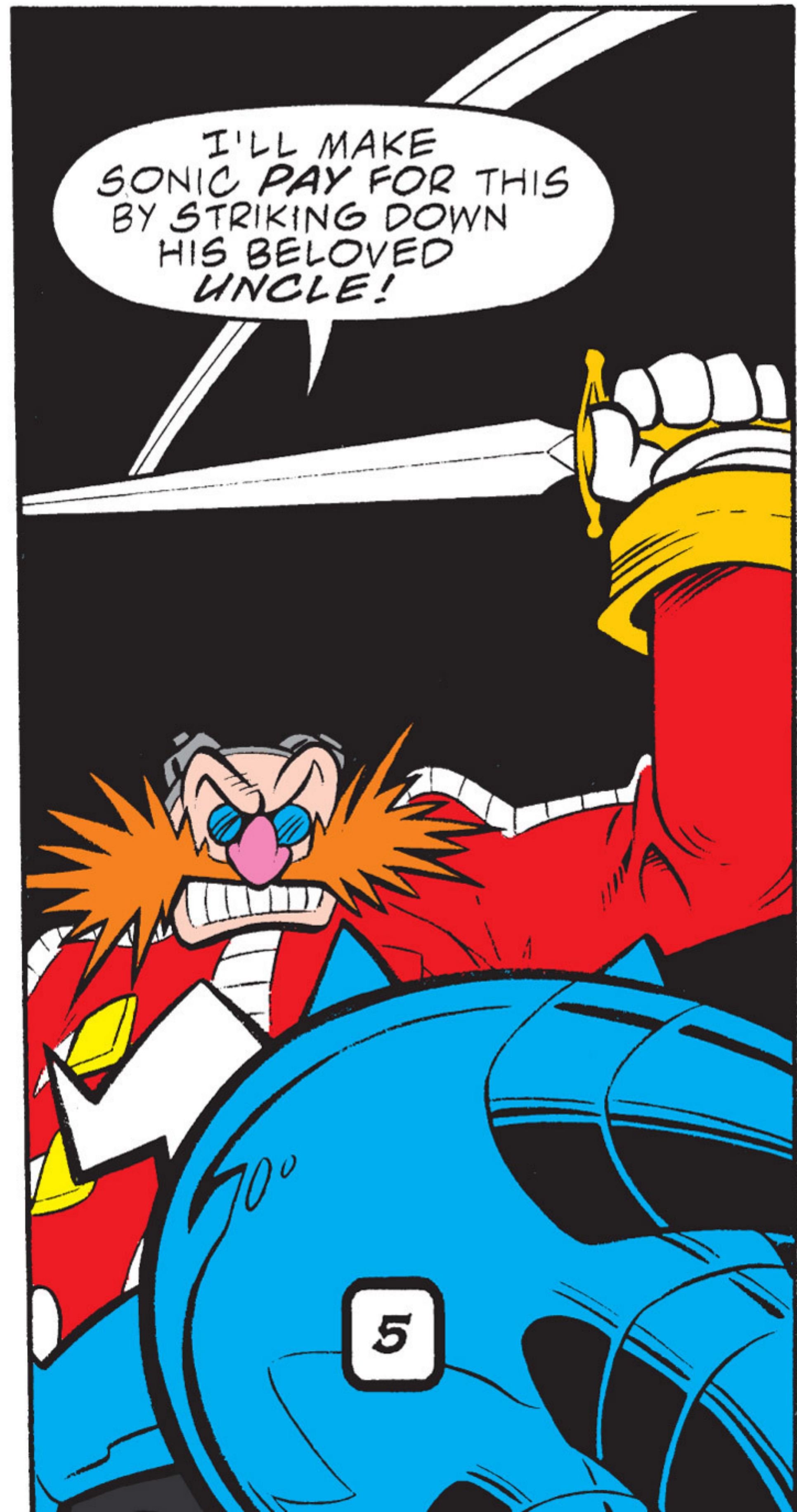
NOW THAT THOSE
METEORITES HAVE
FALLEN--AND KILLED
SONIC TO BOOT--I CAN
SHUT OFF MY ENERGY-
SHELL...



... AND SEE IF
THIS "SWORD OF
ACORNS" COULD
ACTUALLY RESTORE
MOBIAN FREE WILL!



AAARRRGGGHH!
USELESS! IT'S USE-
LESS! MY PRECIOUS
COM-BOTS--INCINER-
ATED IN VAIN!



I'LL MAKE
SONIC PAY FOR THIS
BY STRIKING DOWN
HIS BELOVED
UNCLE!

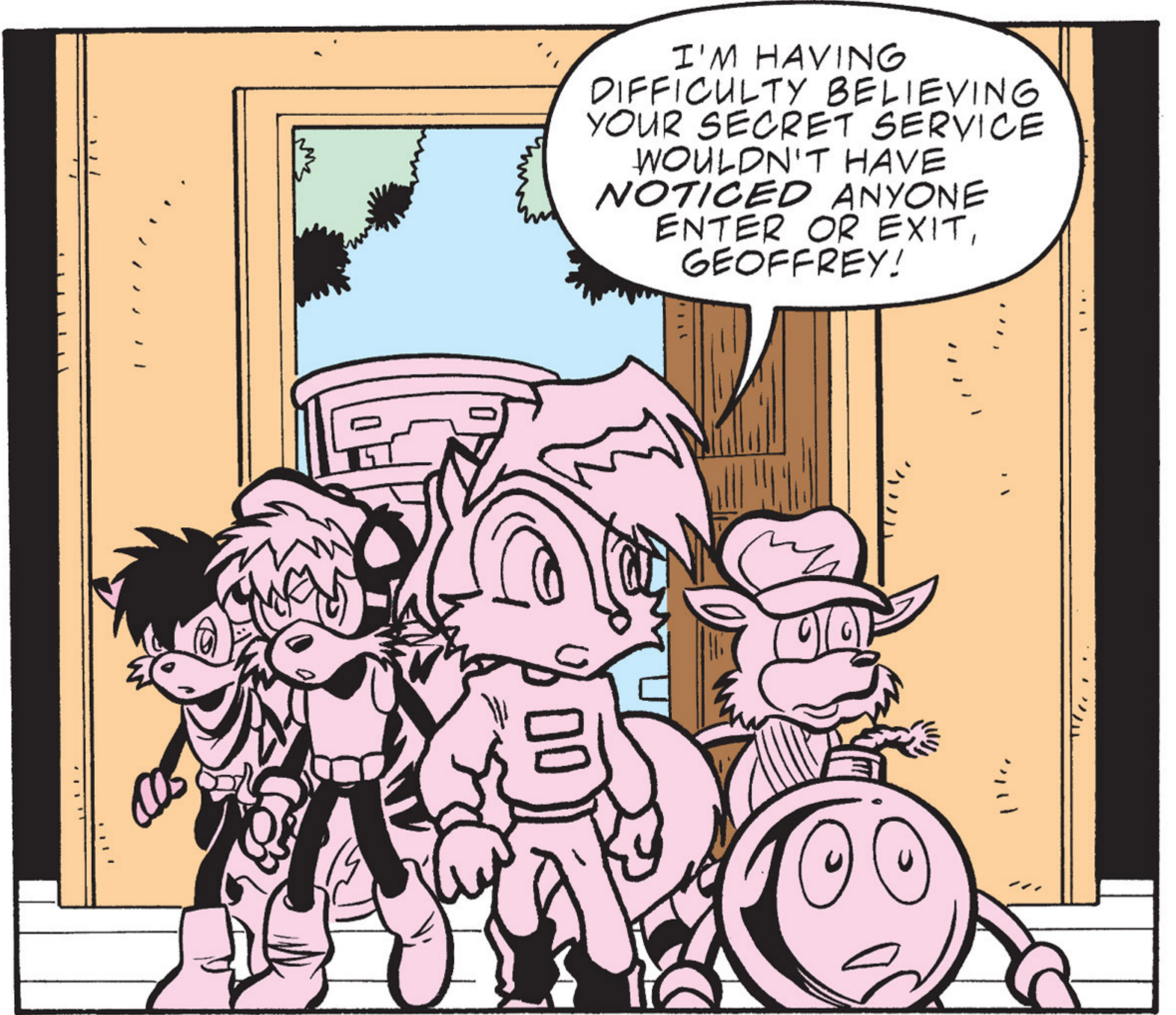


BAH! IT'S
UNGRATIFYING
IF HE'S NOT HERE
TO SEE ME
DO IT!

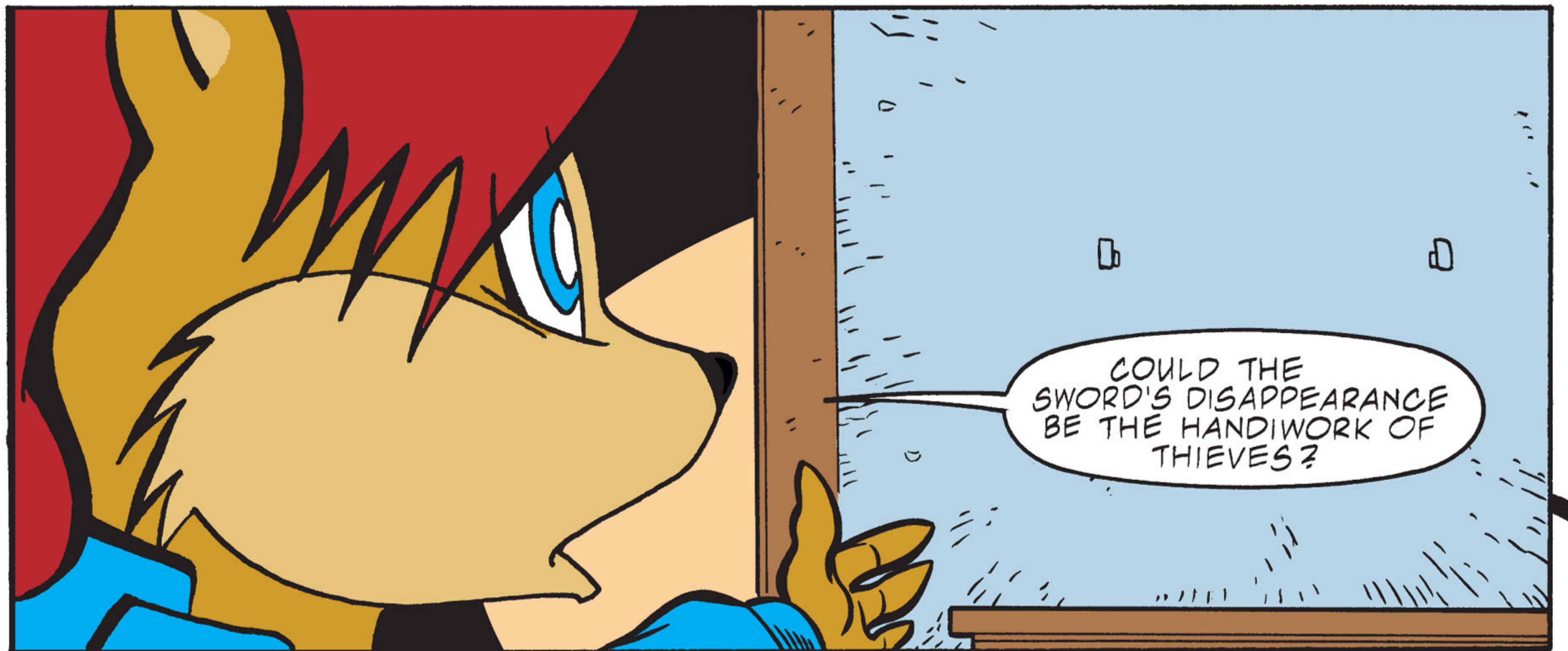
KLANK



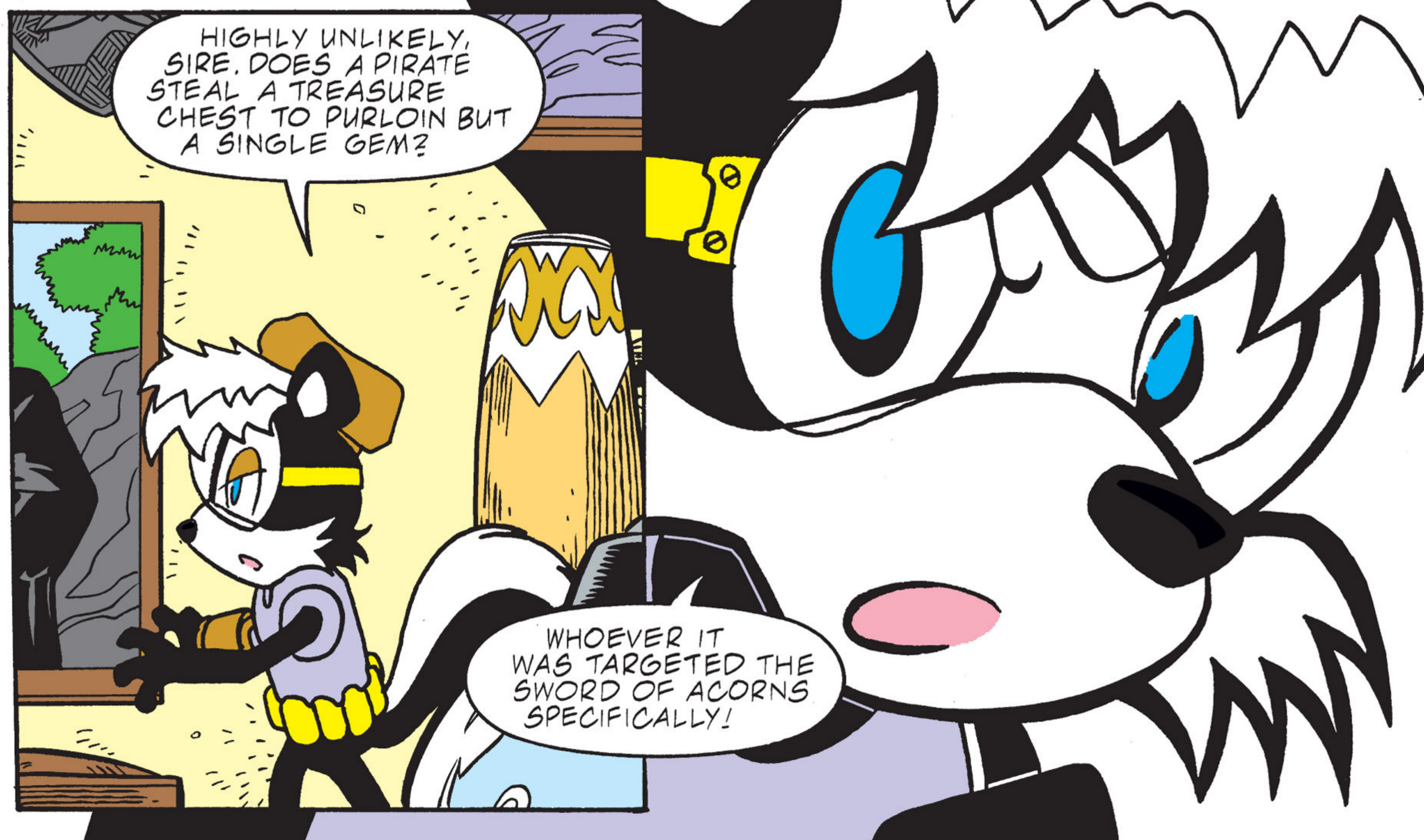
KNOTHOLE KINGDOM...



I'M HAVING DIFFICULTY BELIEVING YOUR SECRET SERVICE WOULDN'T HAVE NOTICED ANYONE ENTER OR EXIT, GEOFFREY!

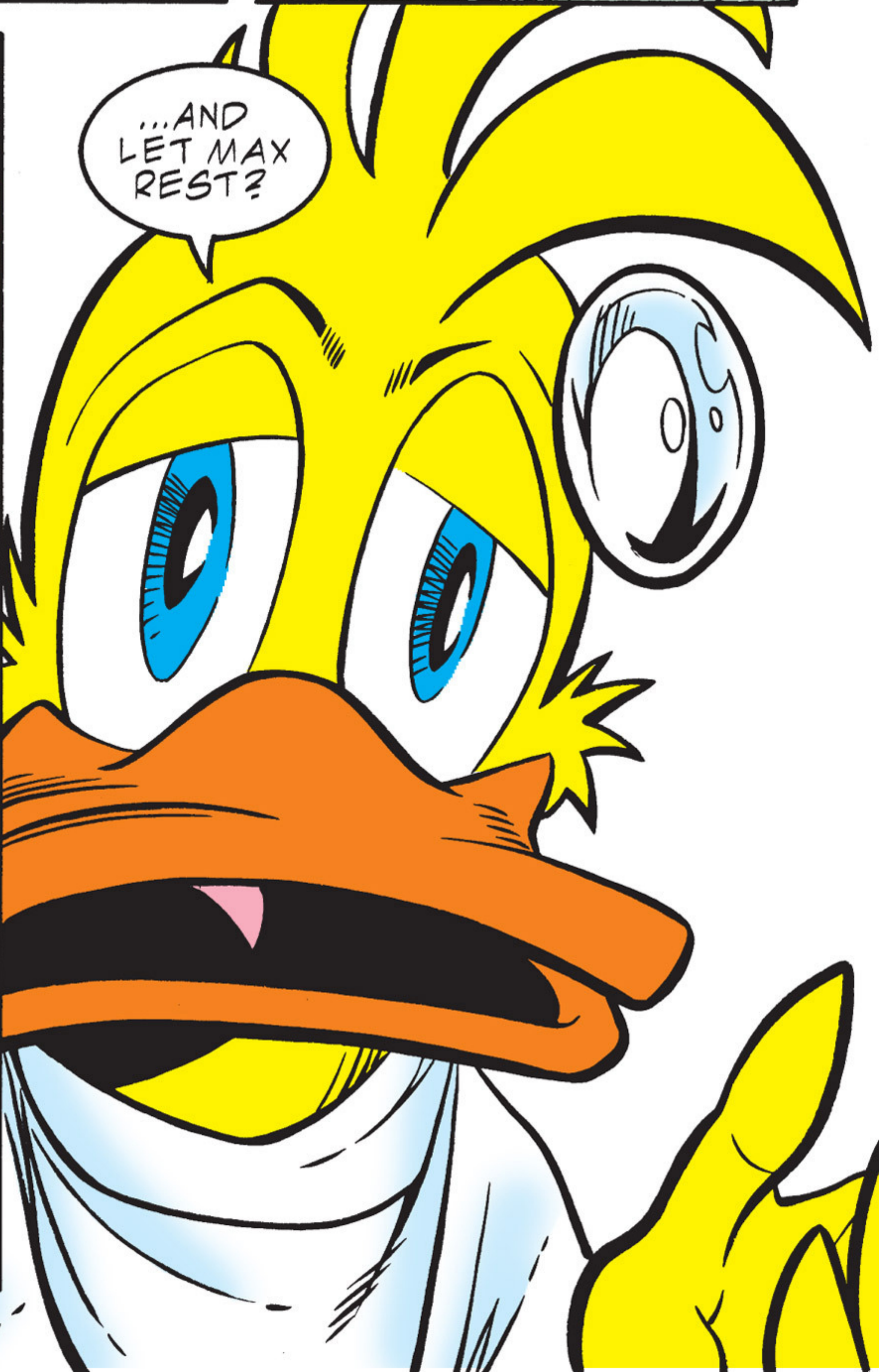
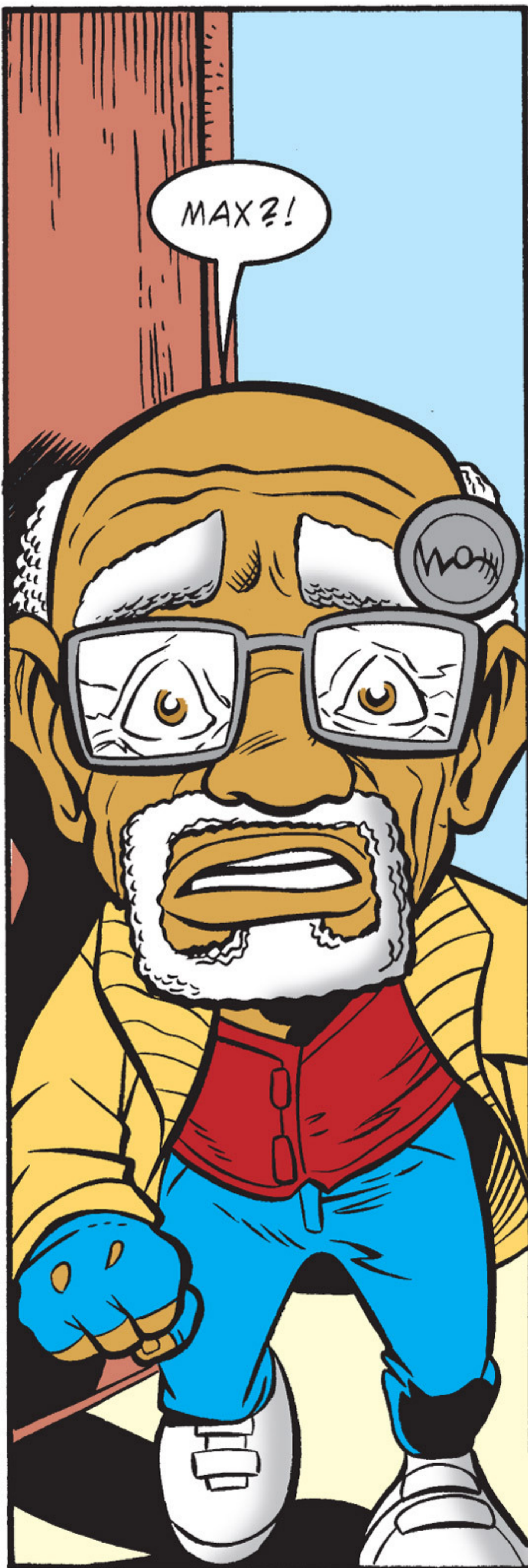


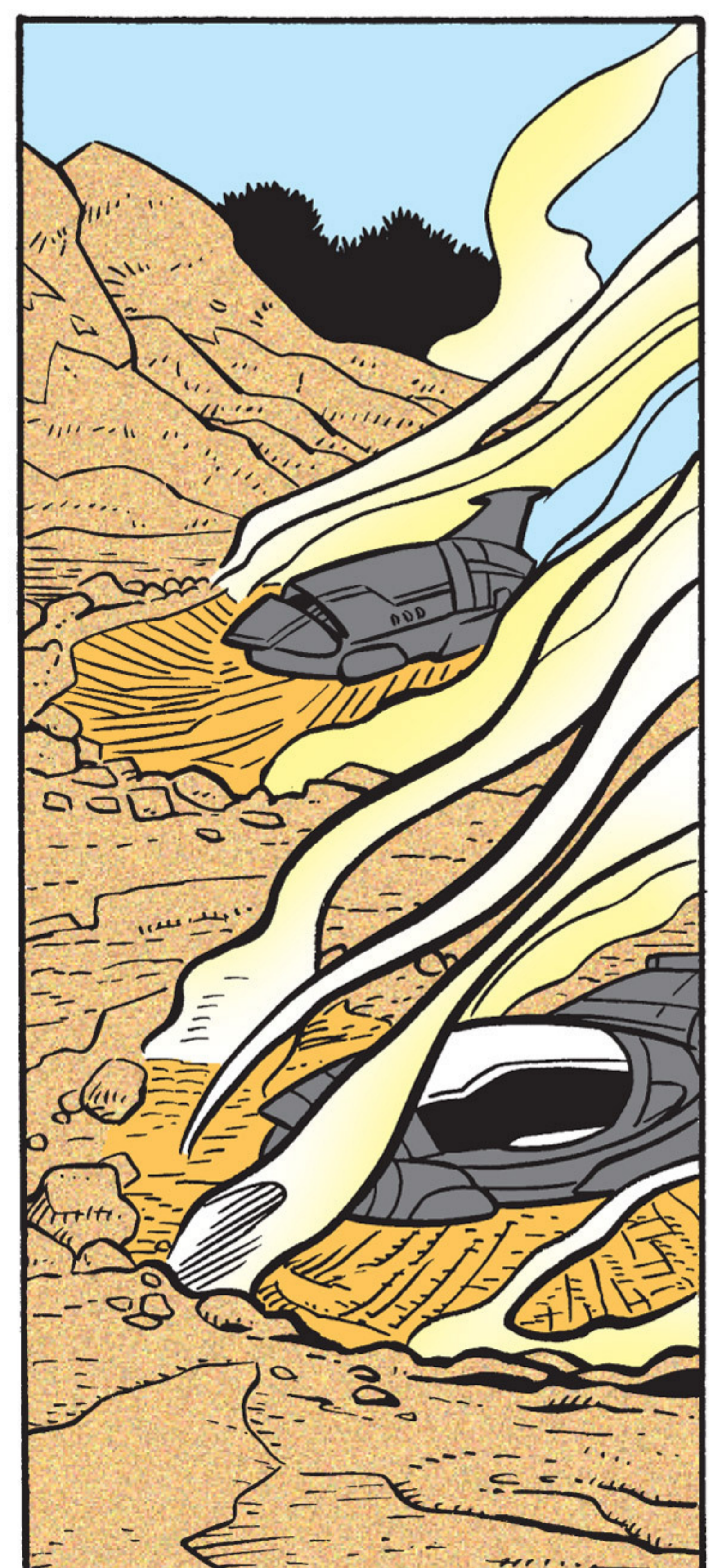
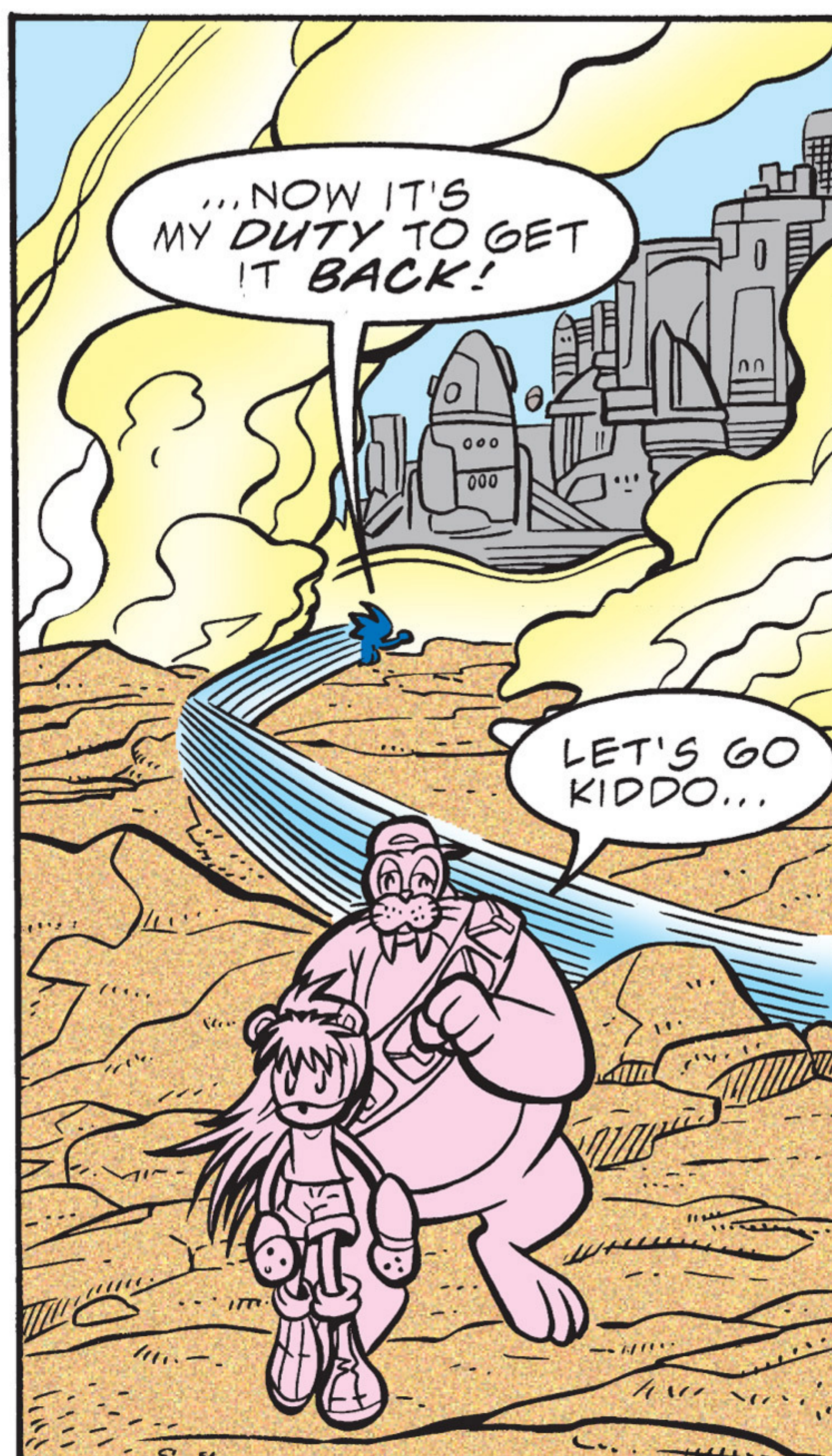
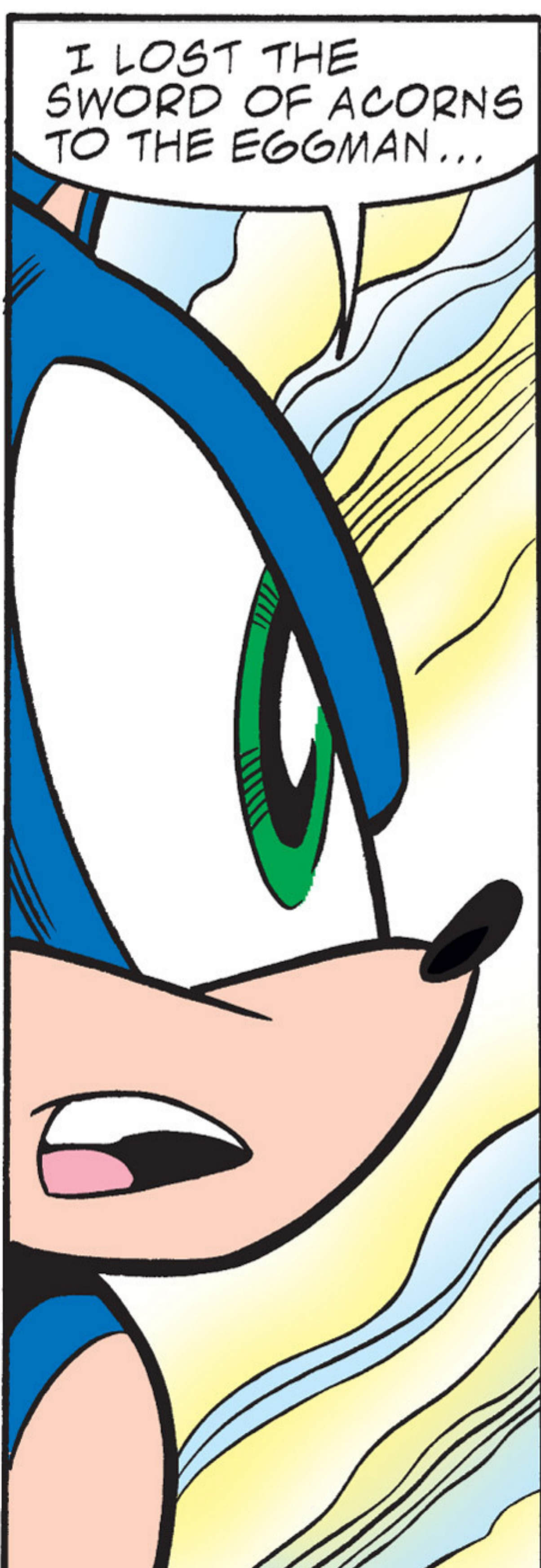
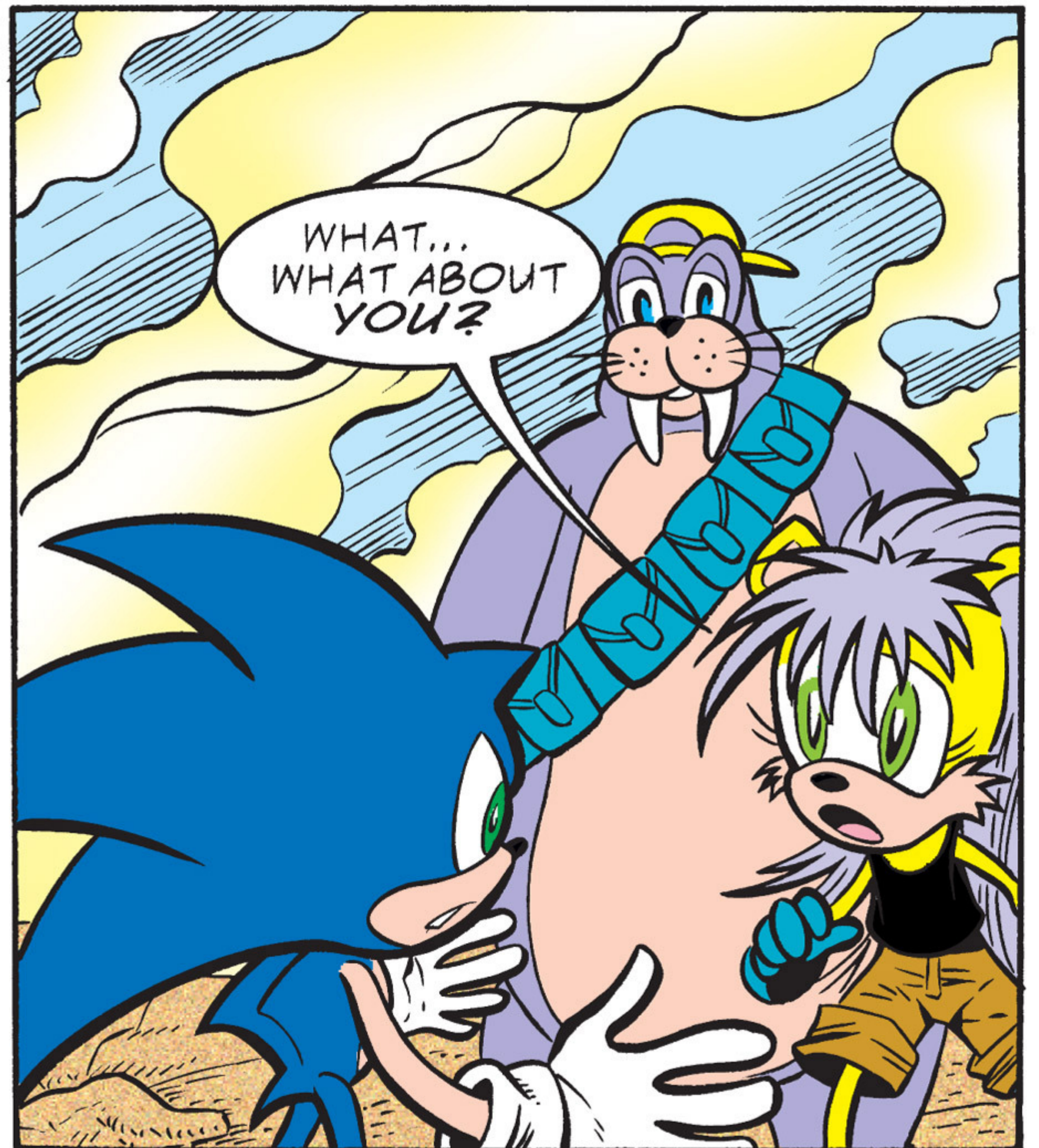
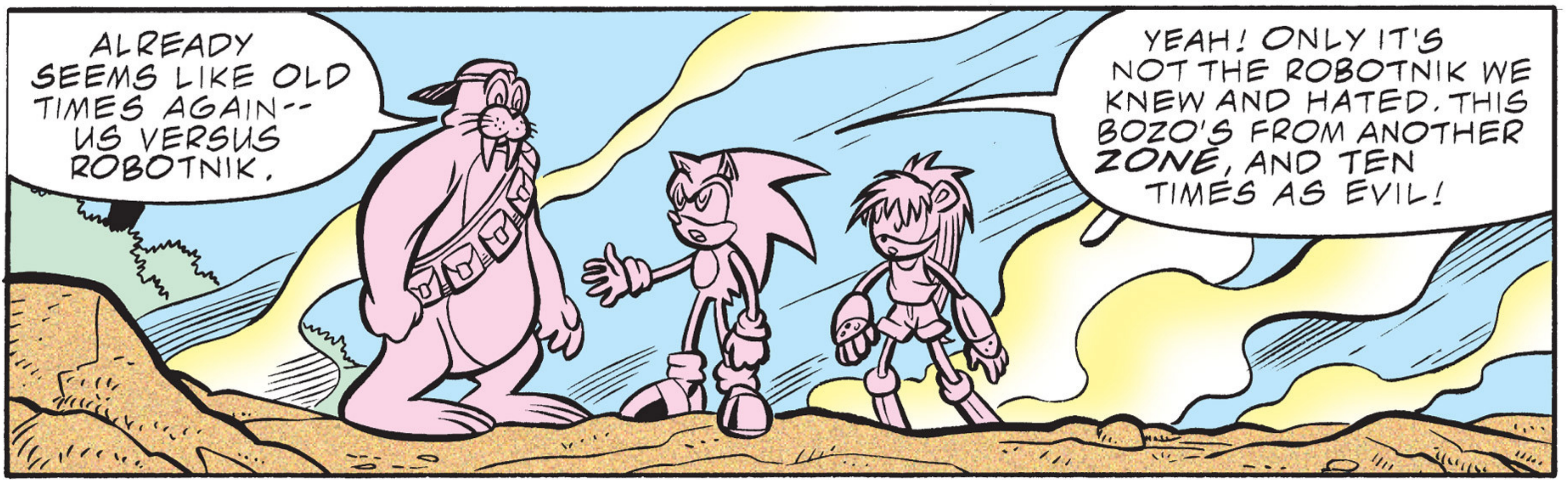
COULD THE SWORD'S DISAPPEARANCE BE THE HANDIWORK OF THIEVES?

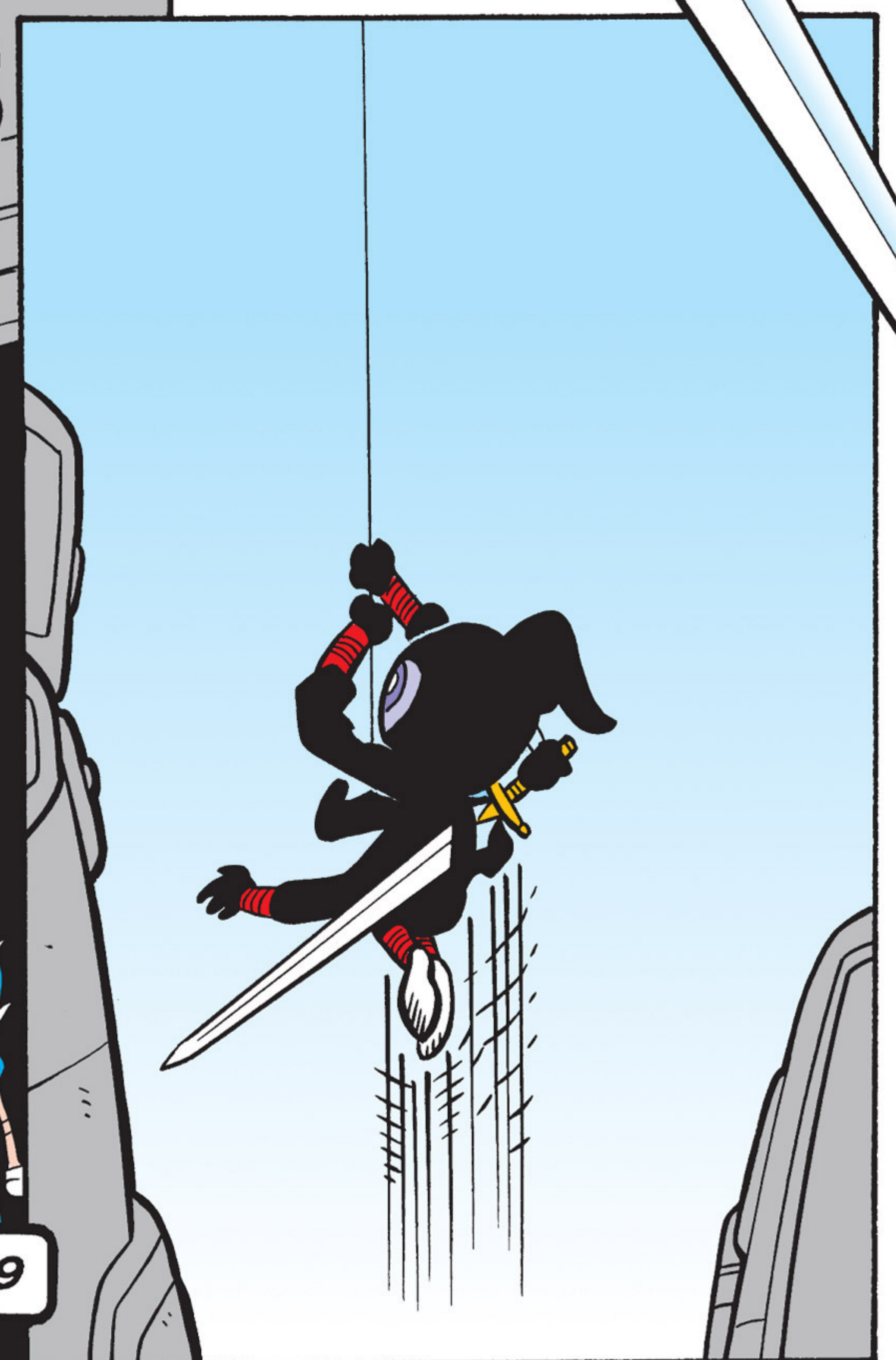
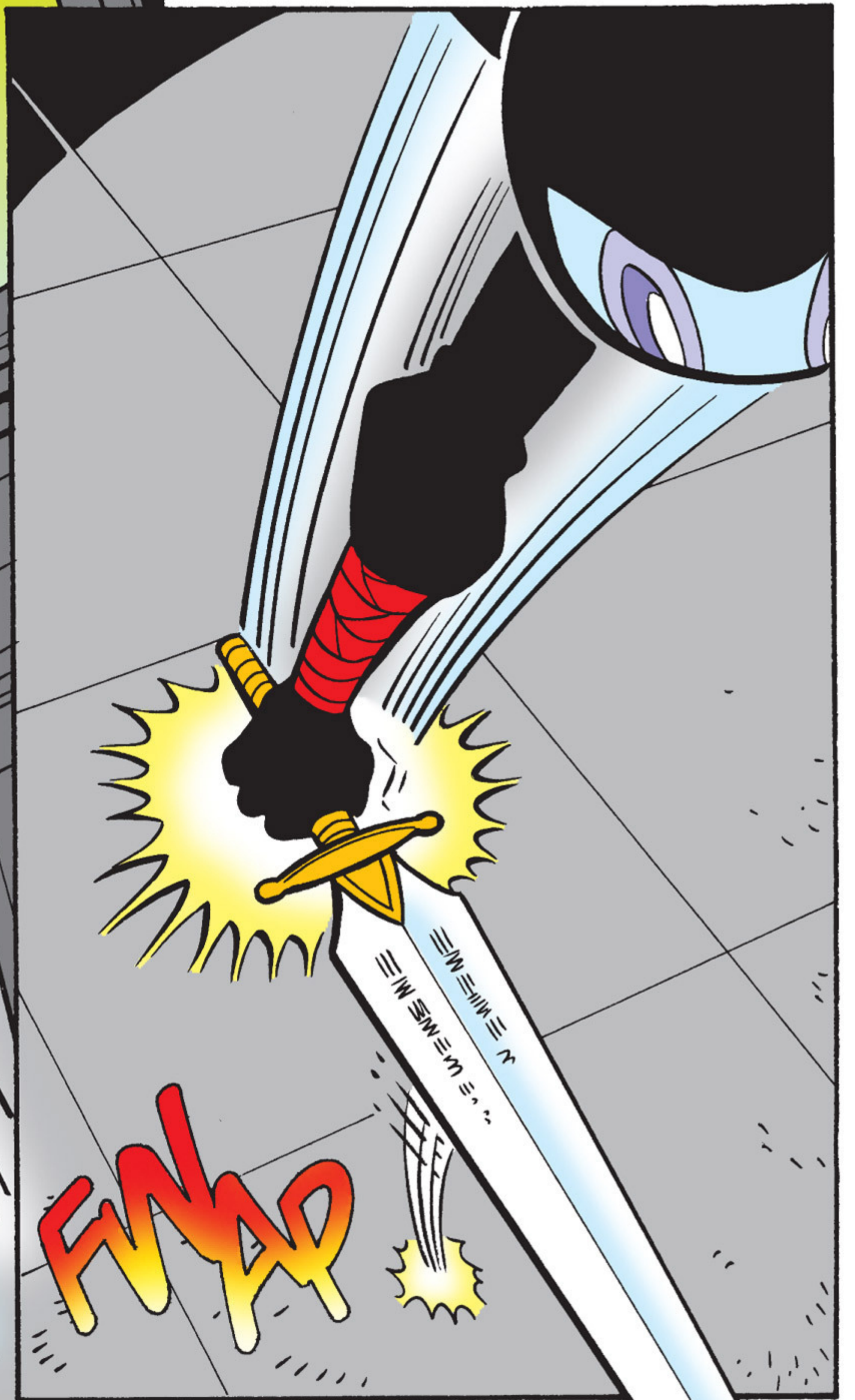
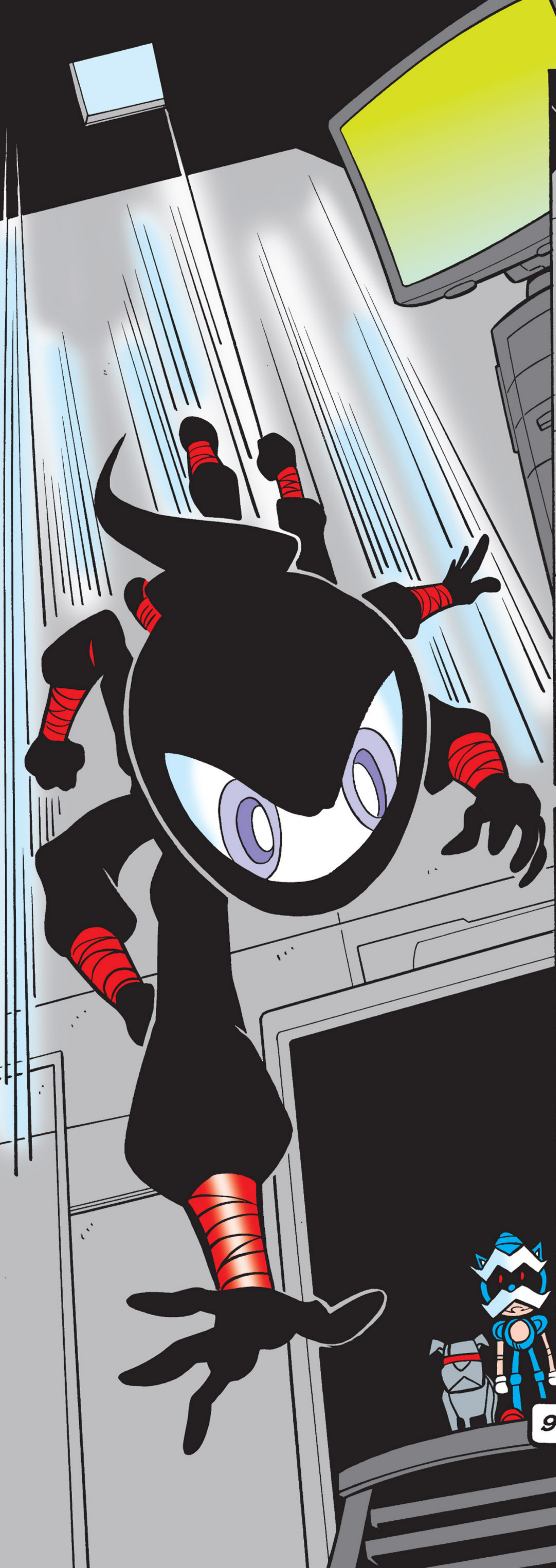


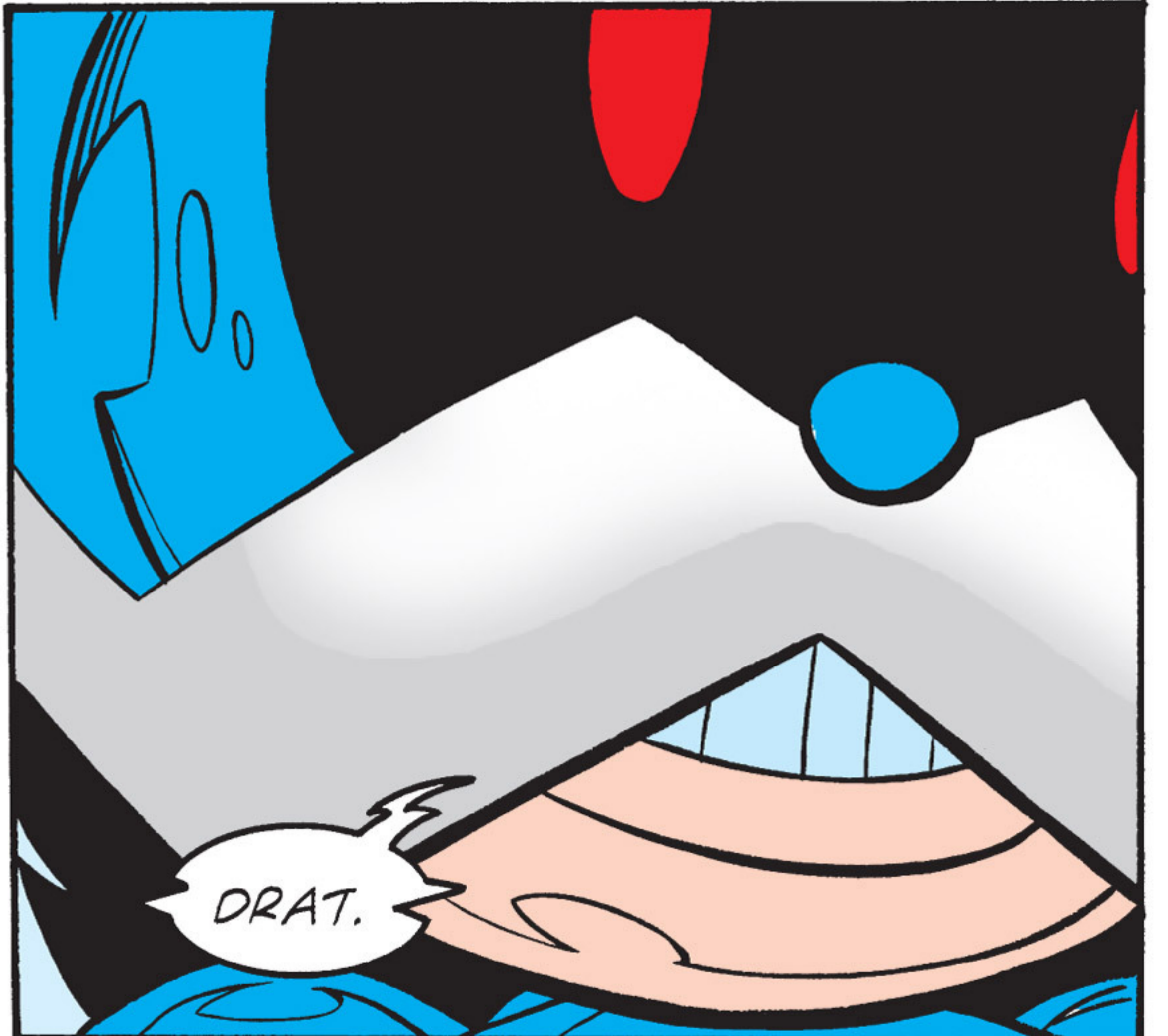
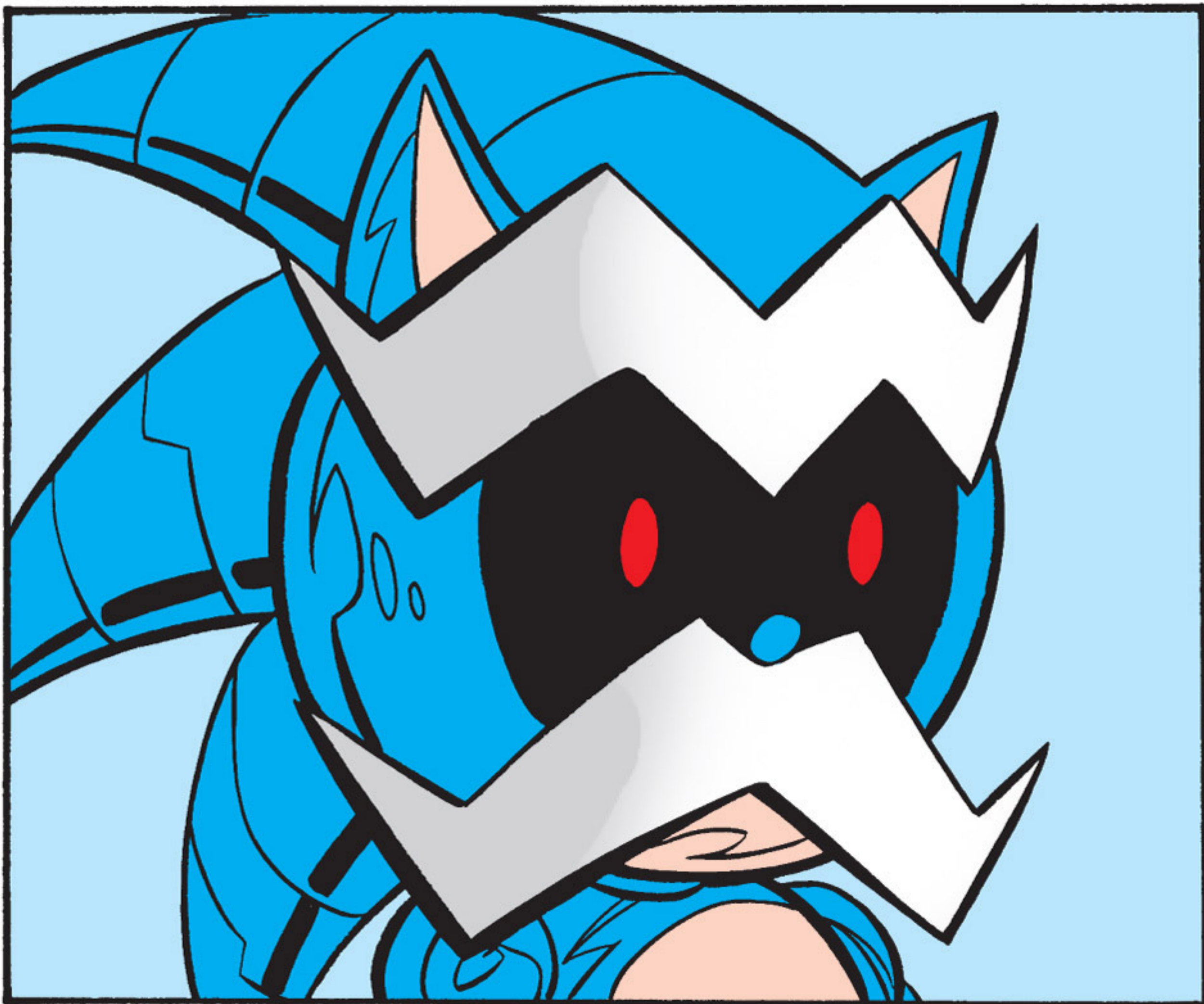
HIGHLY UNLIKELY, SIRE. DOES A PIRATE STEAL A TREASURE CHEST TO PURLOIN BUT A SINGLE GEM?

WHOEVER IT WAS TARGETED THE SWORD OF ACORNS SPECIFICALLY!

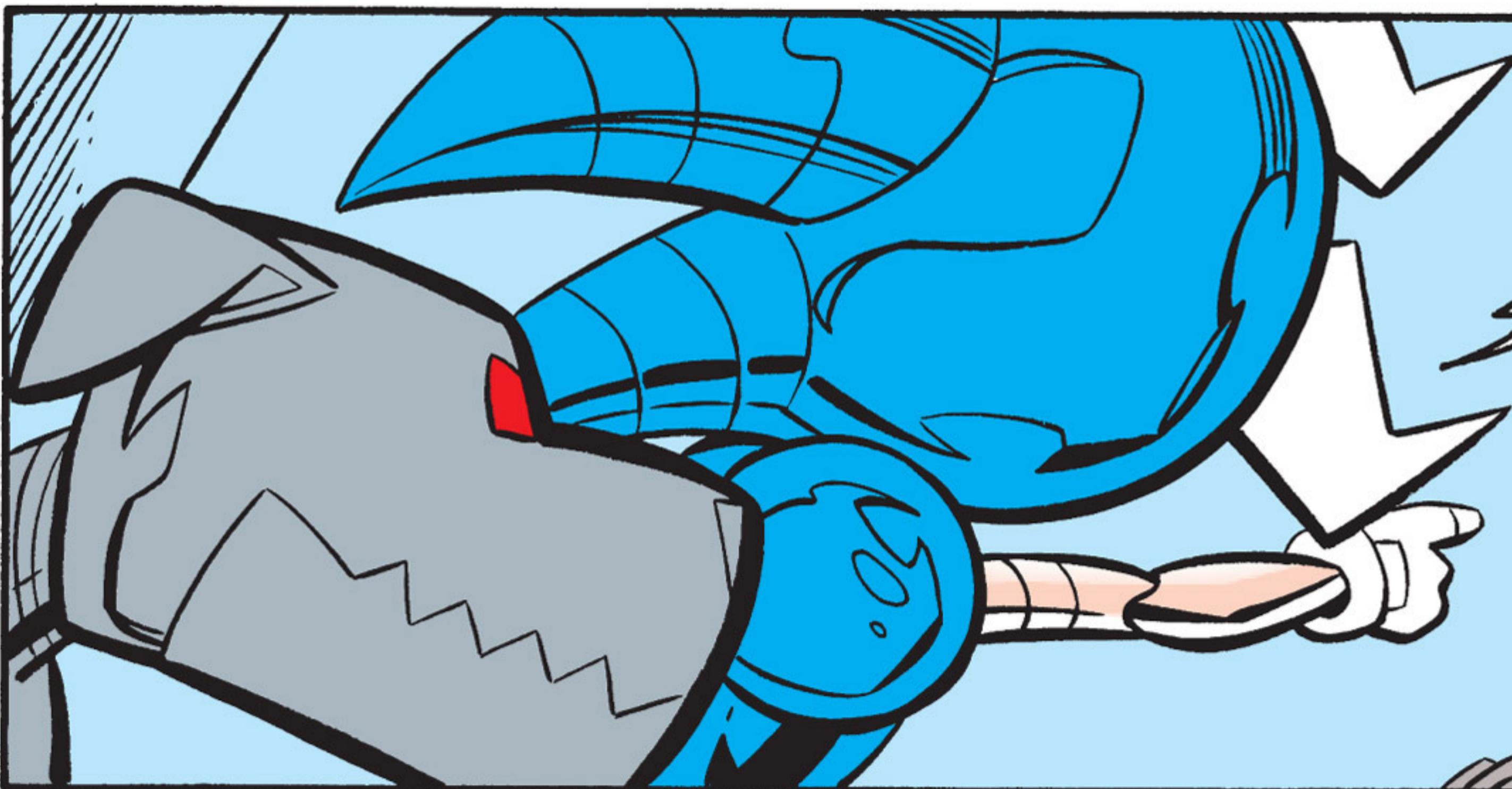




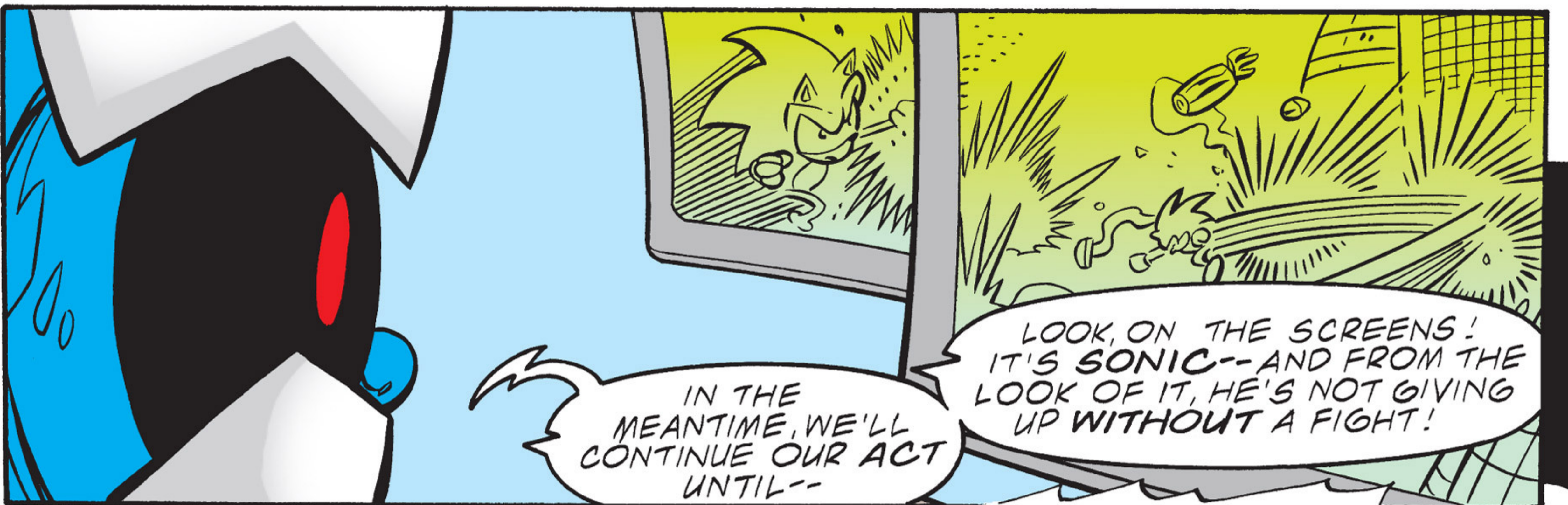




DRAT.



COULDN'T RISK TRYING TO STOP ARACHNIS FROM STEALING THE SWORD, MUTTSKI. WOULD'VE CAUSED A COMMOTION...
...AND ROBOTNIK WOULD'VE LEARNED WE'RE NOT UNDER HIS CONTROL ANYMORE. PROBABLY BETTER THAT SHE'S GOT IT...
...OR HE MIGHT'VE TESTED IT ON ANOTHER ROBIAN AND LEARNED THAT IT RESTORES FREE WILL.

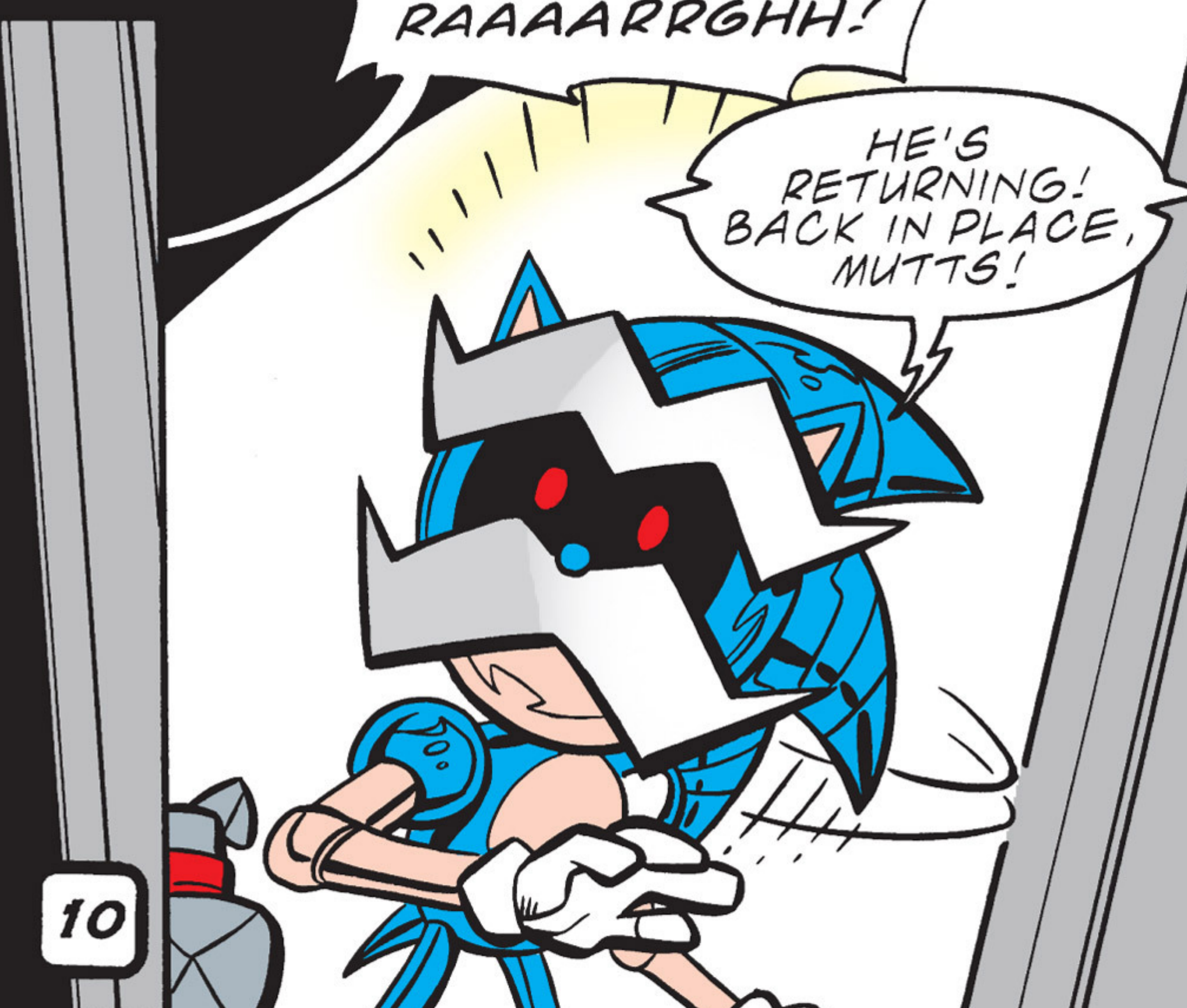


IN THE MEANTIME, WE'LL CONTINUE OUR ACT UNTIL--

LOOK, ON THE SCREENS! IT'S SONIC-- AND FROM THE LOOK OF IT, HE'S NOT GIVING UP WITHOUT A FIGHT!



ATTABOY, SONNY--

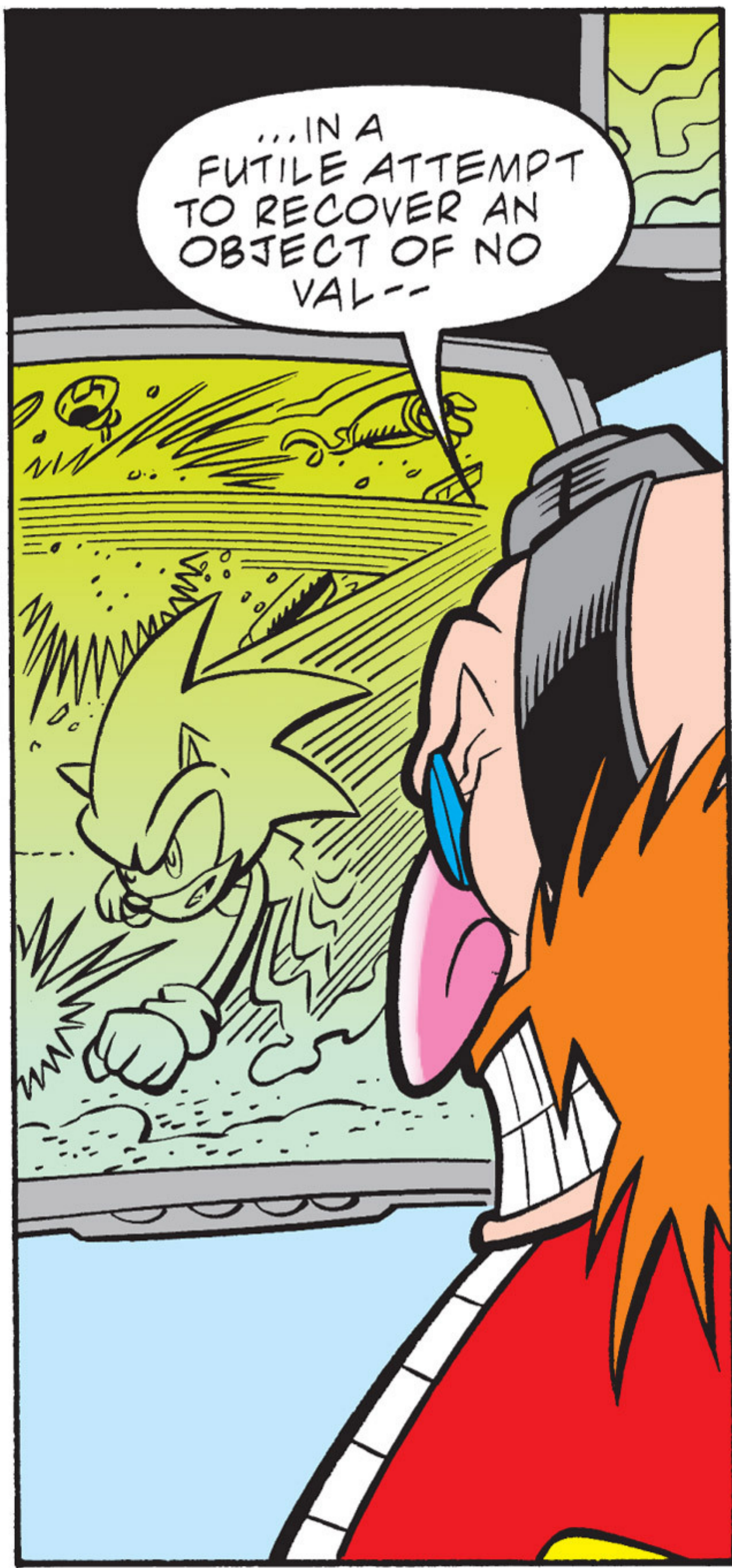


RAAAARRGHH!

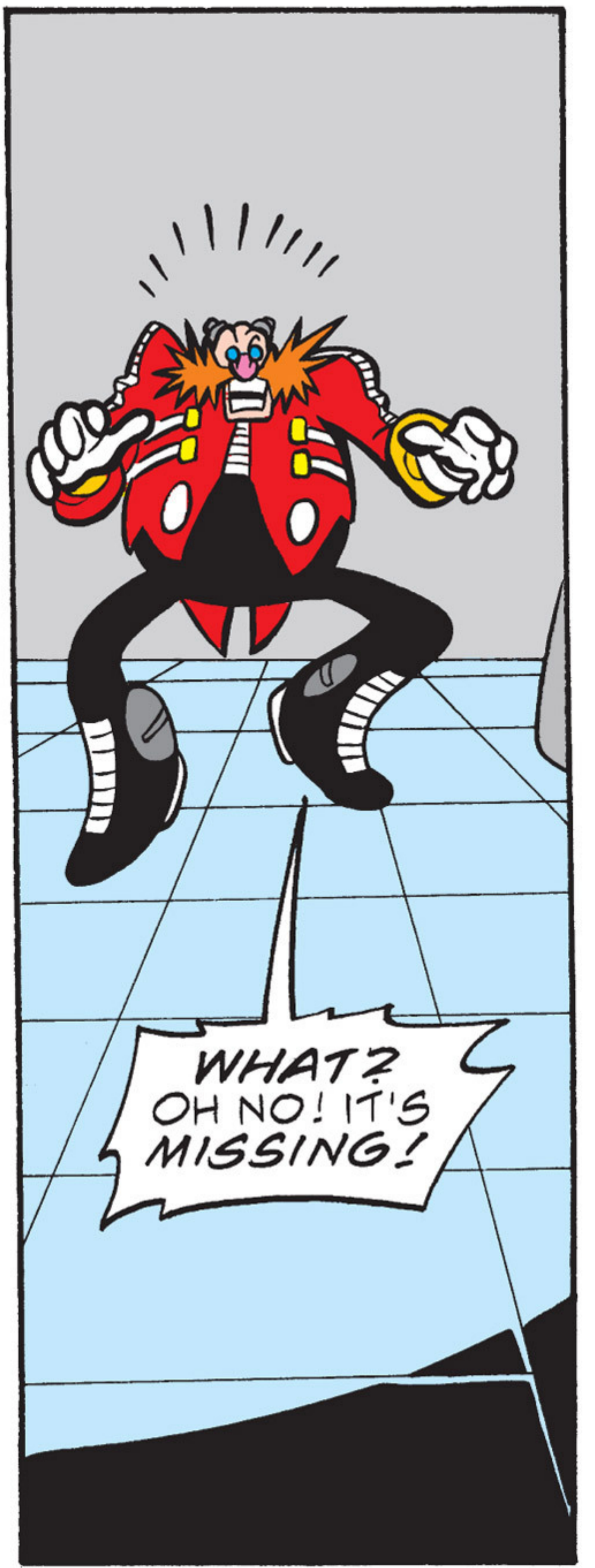
HE'S RETURNING! BACK IN PLACE, MUTTS!



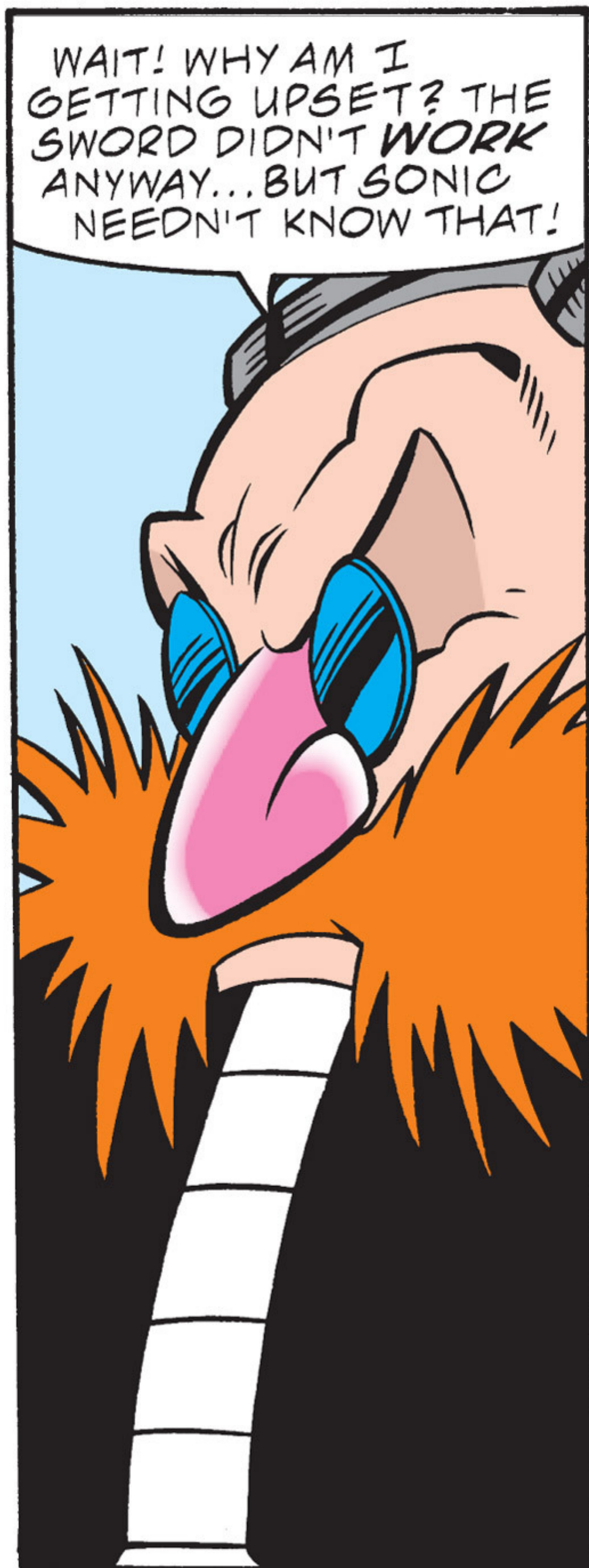
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH THAT WRETCHED RODENT? DOESN'T HE KNOW WHEN HE'S BEEN BEAT? WASTING PRECIOUS TIME DESTROYING MY ROBOTIC TROOPS...



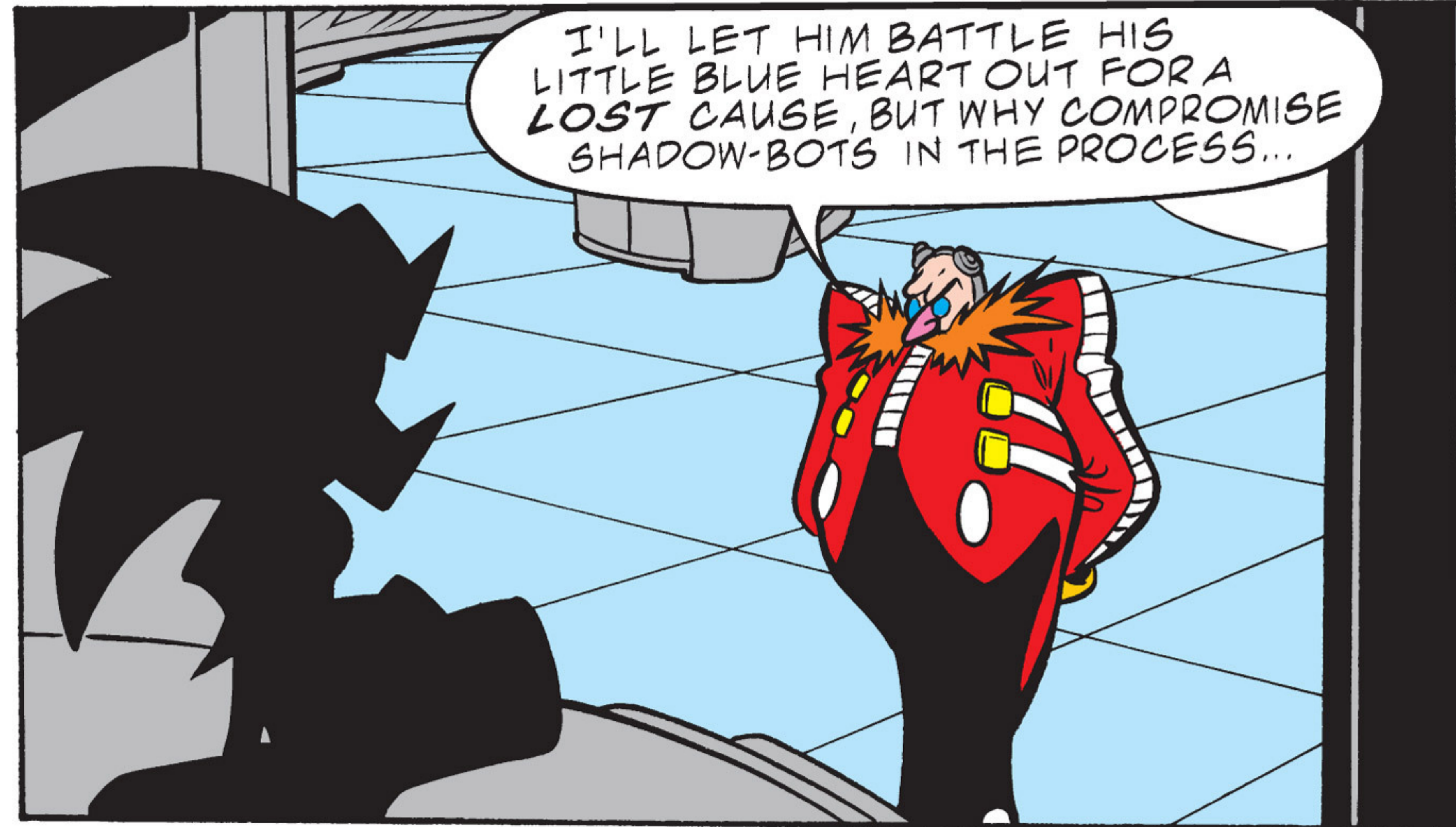
...IN A FUTILE ATTEMPT TO RECOVER AN OBJECT OF NO VAL--



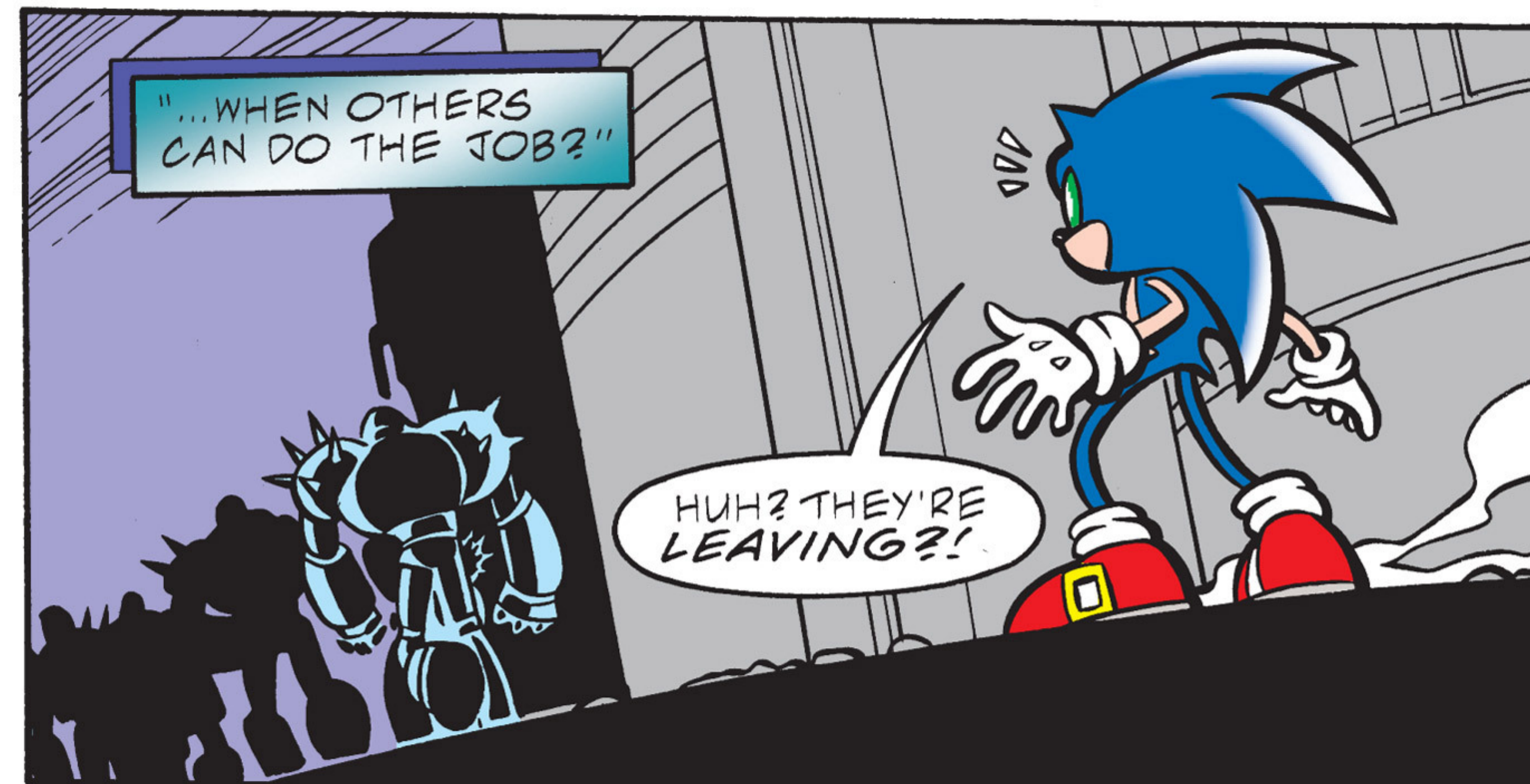
WHAT? OH NO! IT'S MISSING!



WAIT! WHY AM I GETTING UPSET? THE SWORD DIDN'T WORK ANYWAY... BUT SONIC NEEDN'T KNOW THAT!



I'LL LET HIM BATTLE HIS LITTLE BLUE HEART OUT FOR A LOST CAUSE, BUT WHY COMPROMISE SHADOW-BOTS IN THE PROCESS...



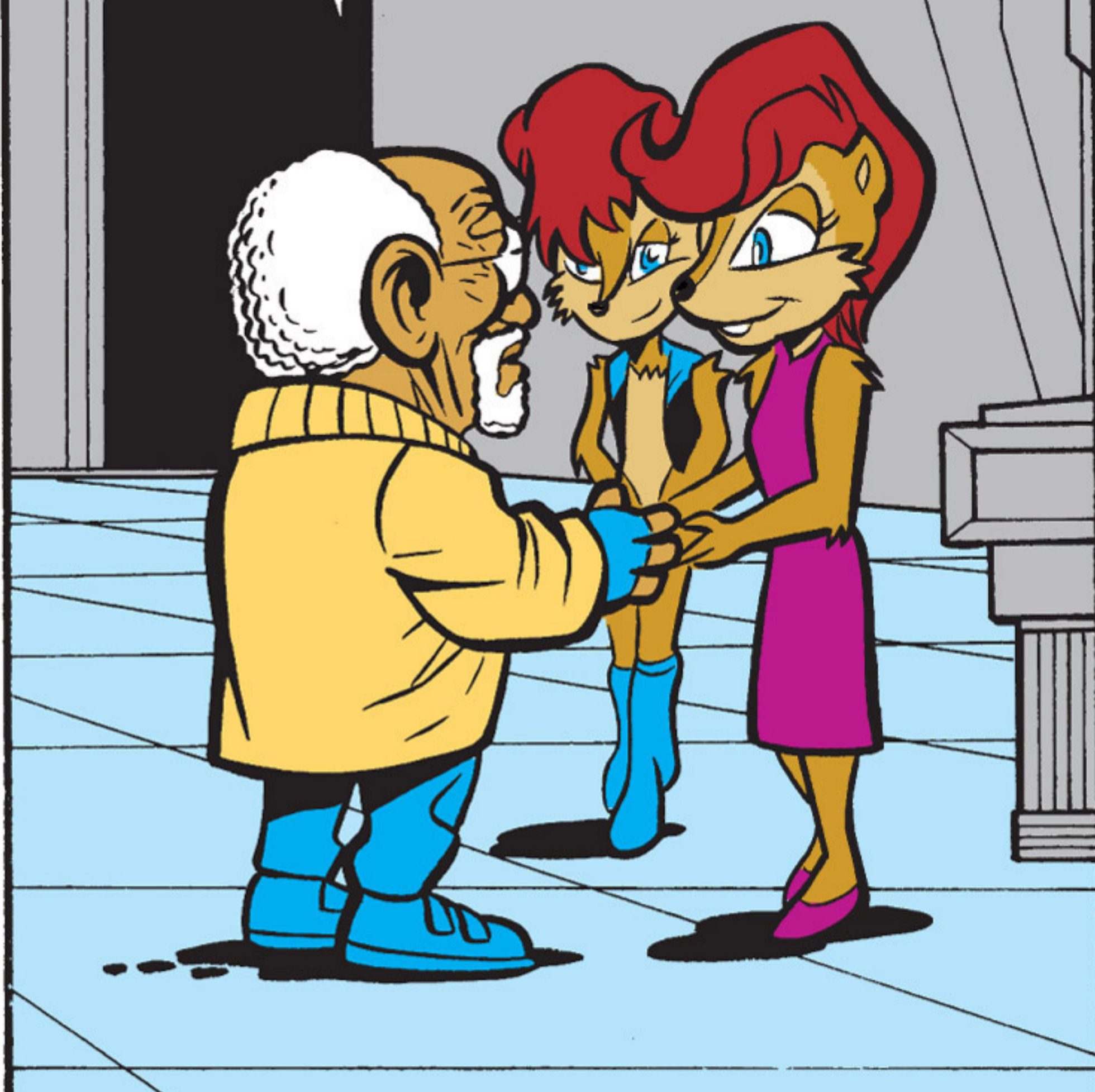
"...WHEN OTHERS CAN DO THE JOB?"

HUH? THEY'RE LEAVING?!

KNOTHOLE...

I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE YOU AGAIN, NATE ...

NOR I YOU, QUEEN ALICIA, BUT WE'LL HAVE TIME TO REMINISCE LATER...



...RIGHT NOW, I THINK YOU AND THE PRINCESS HAVE SOME CATCHING UP TO DO!



HE'S RIGHT, SALLY, BUT IS SOMETHING TROUBLING YOU? YOUR FATHER?

YES...



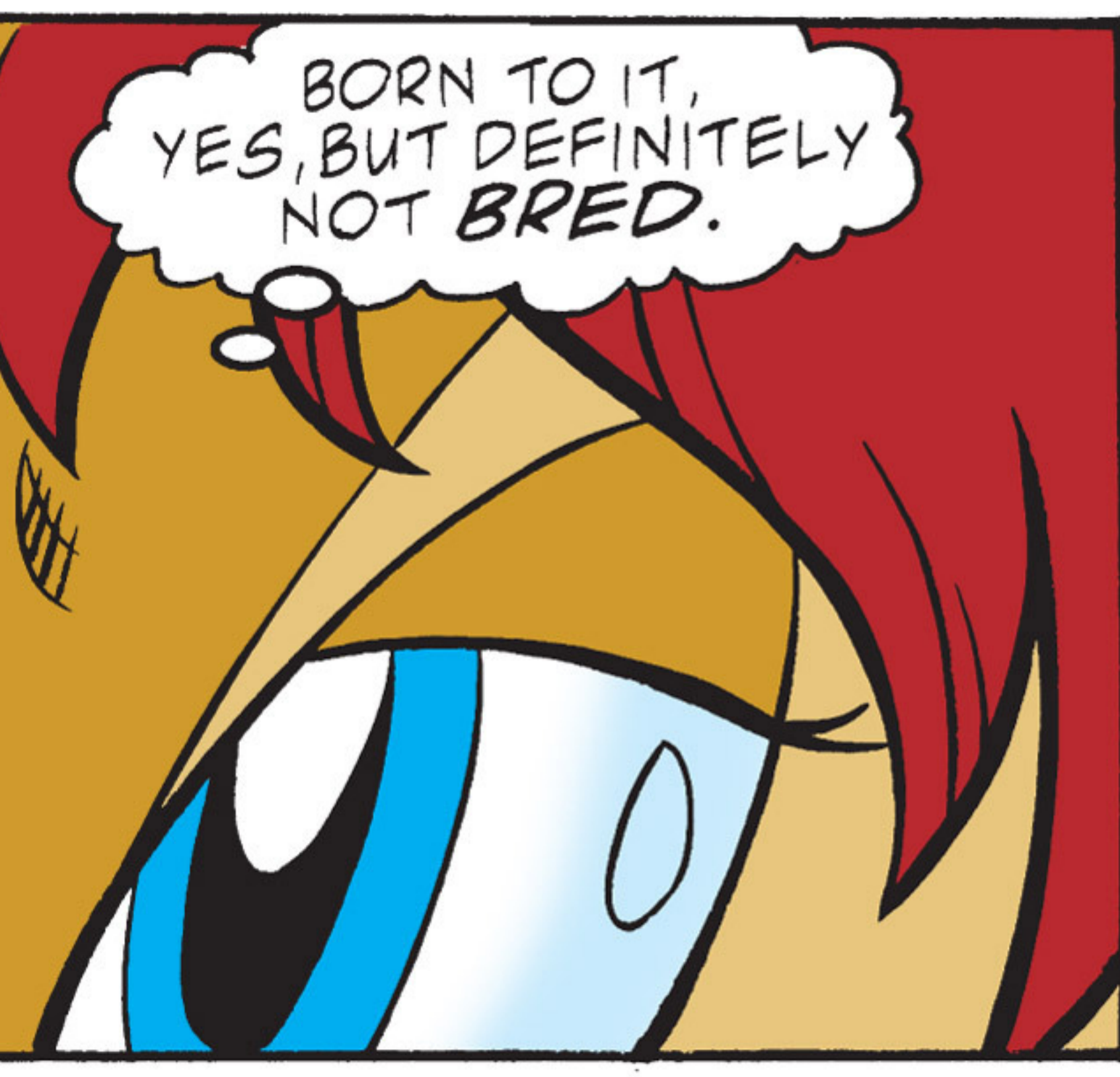
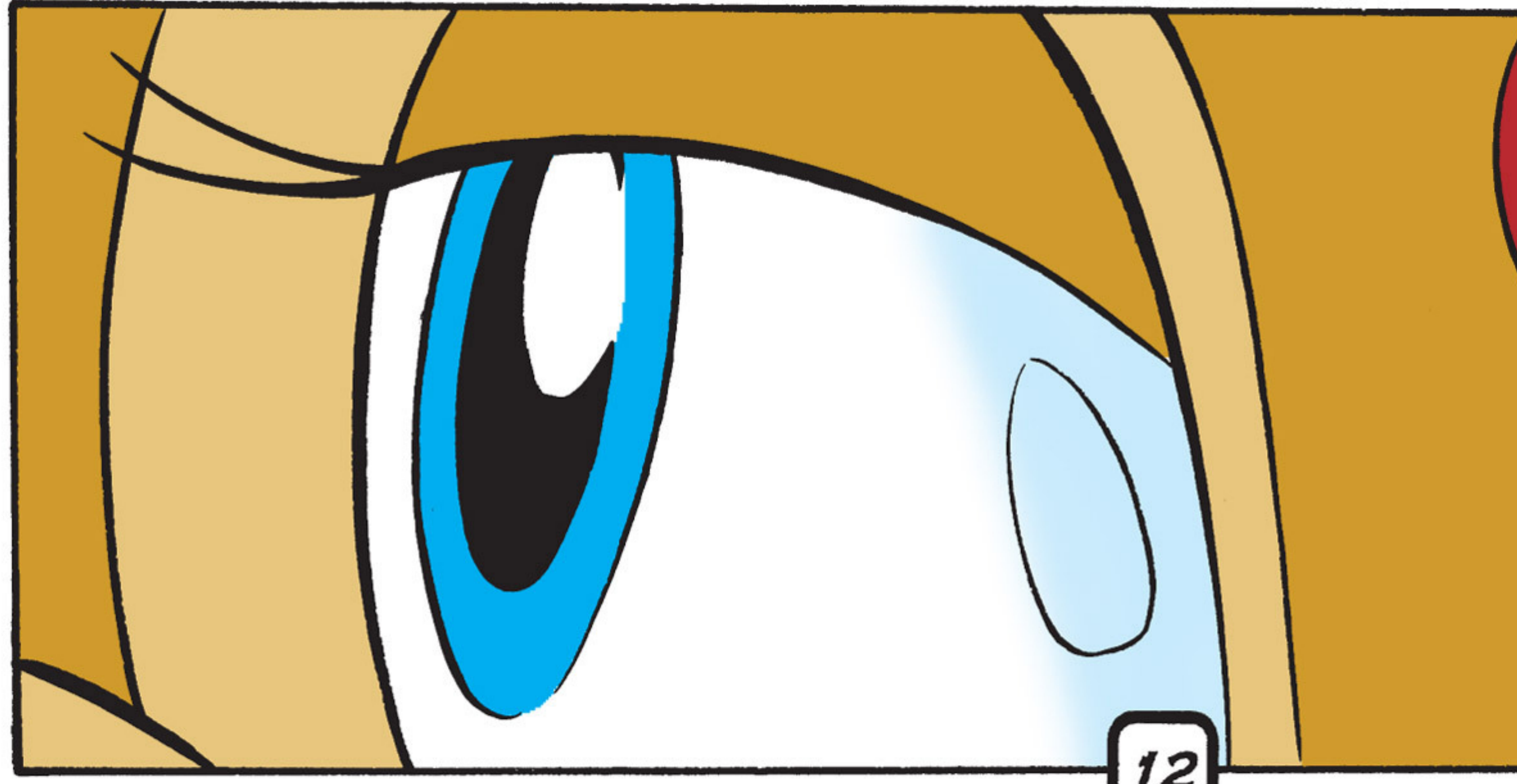
...PLUS WONDERING HOW ELIAS IS DOING WITH THAT MISSING SWORD BUSINESS.



I'M CERTAIN HE'S DOING JUST FINE--HE WAS BORN TO IT!



BORN TO IT, YES, BUT DEFINITELY NOT BRED.



ELSEWHERE...



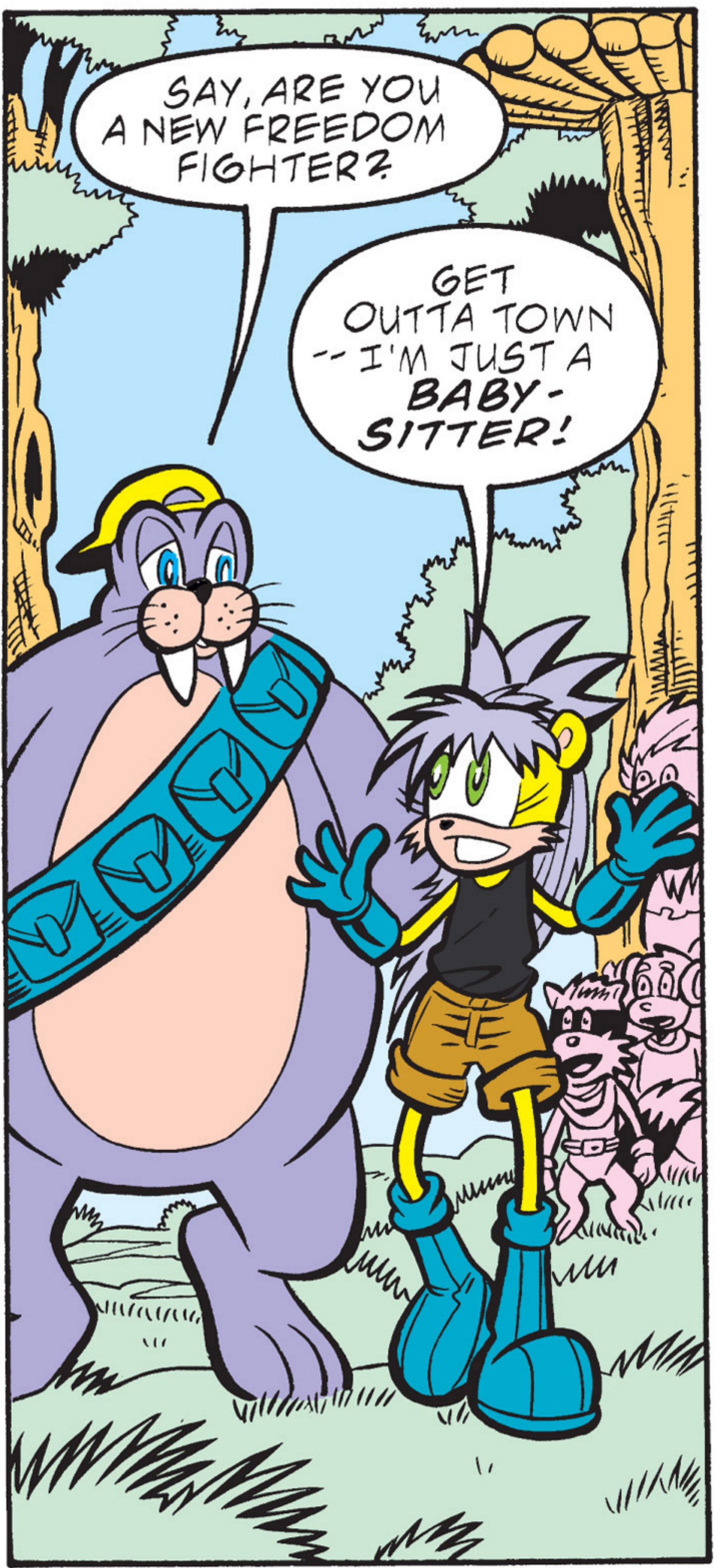
SO EVERYBODY RELOCATED HERE AFTER ROBOTNIK INVADED?

YEP.



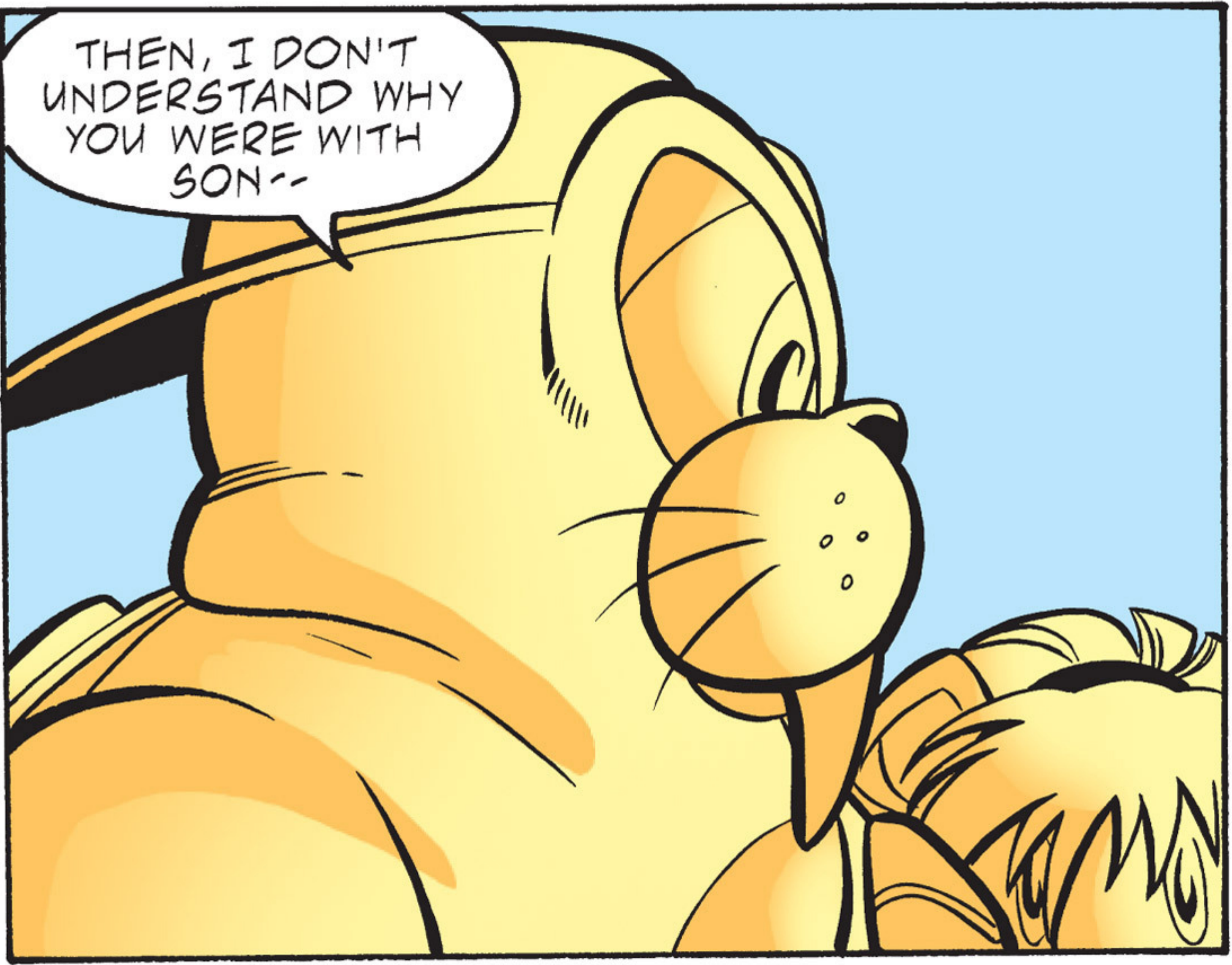
IT'S NICE BEING BACK.

I GUESS...

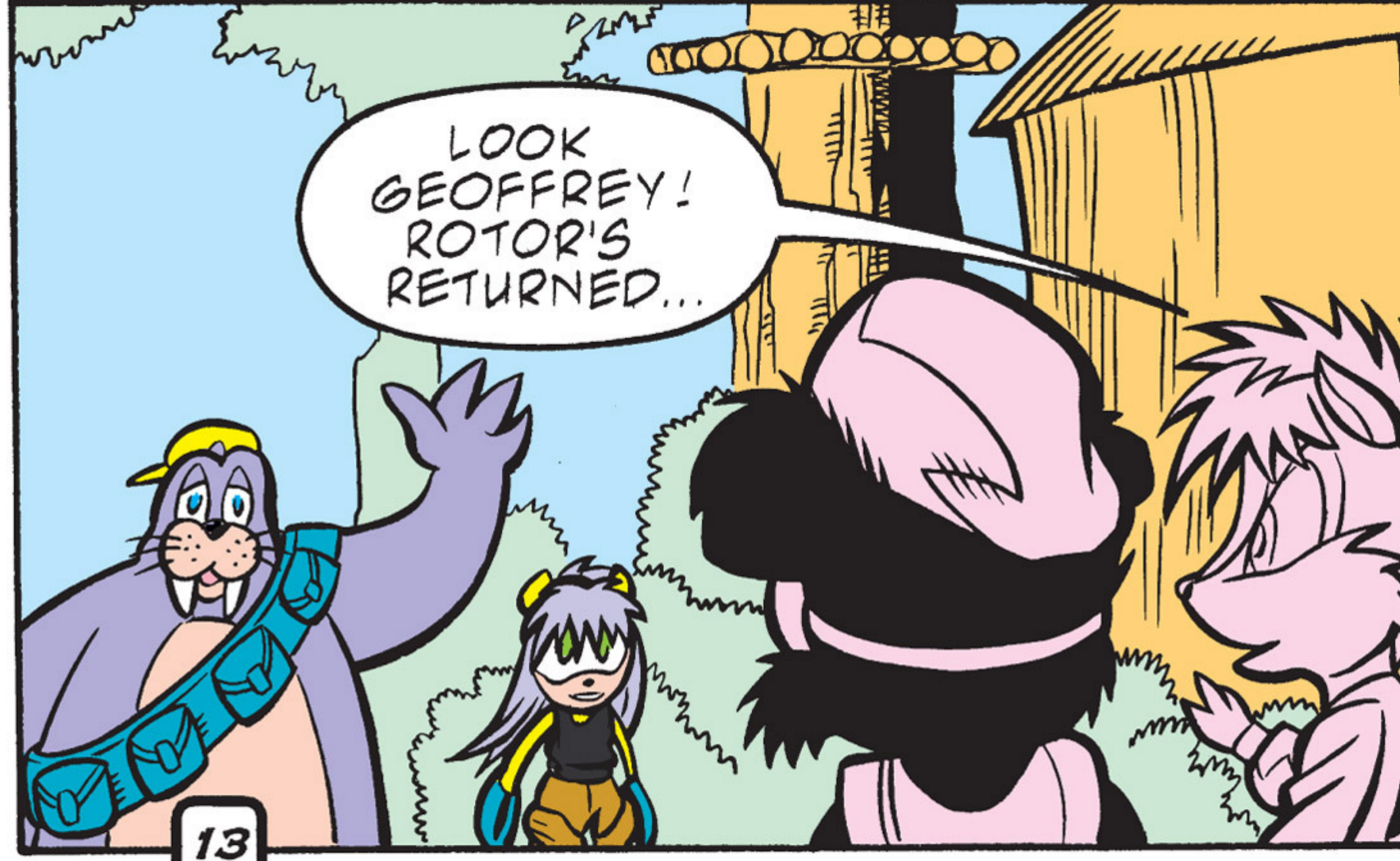


SAY, ARE YOU A NEW FREEDOM FIGHTER?

GET OUTTA TOWN -- I'M JUST A BABY-SITTER!

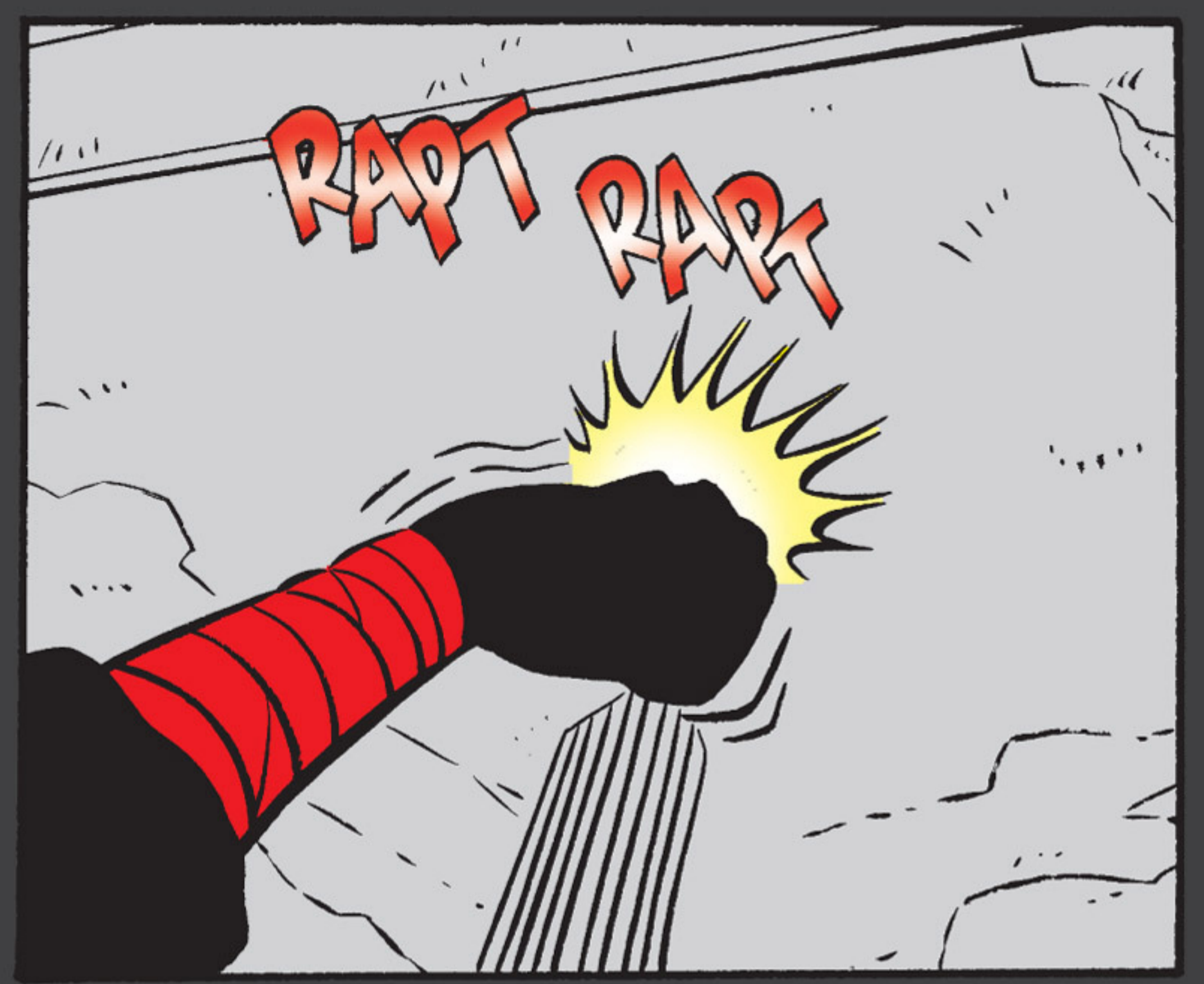
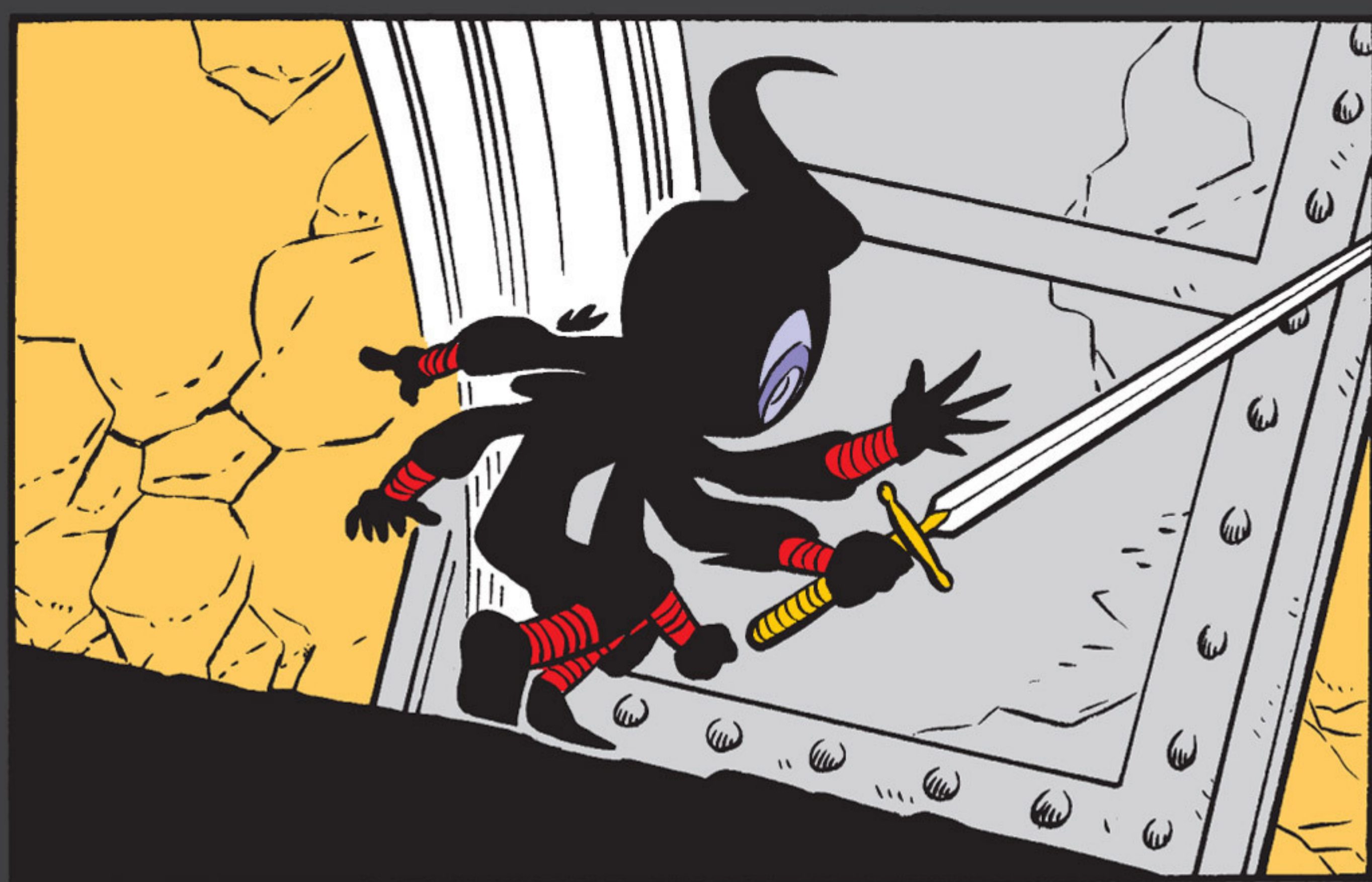
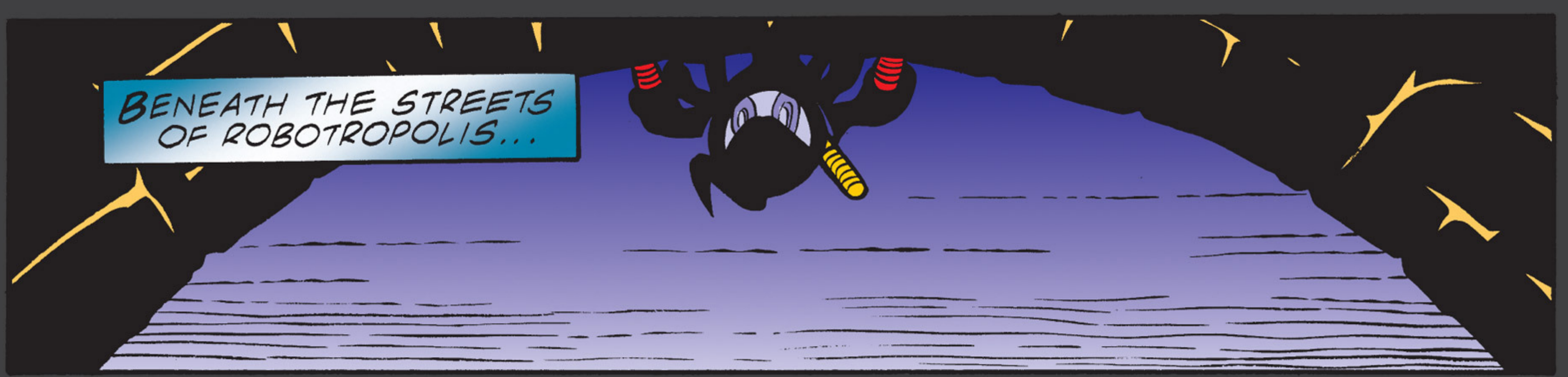


THEN, I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY YOU WERE WITH SON--



LOOK GEOFFREY! ROTOR'S RETURNED...

BENEATH THE STREETS OF ROBOTROPOLIS...



DID YOU GET IT? DUMB QUESTION, OF COURSE YOU GOT IT.

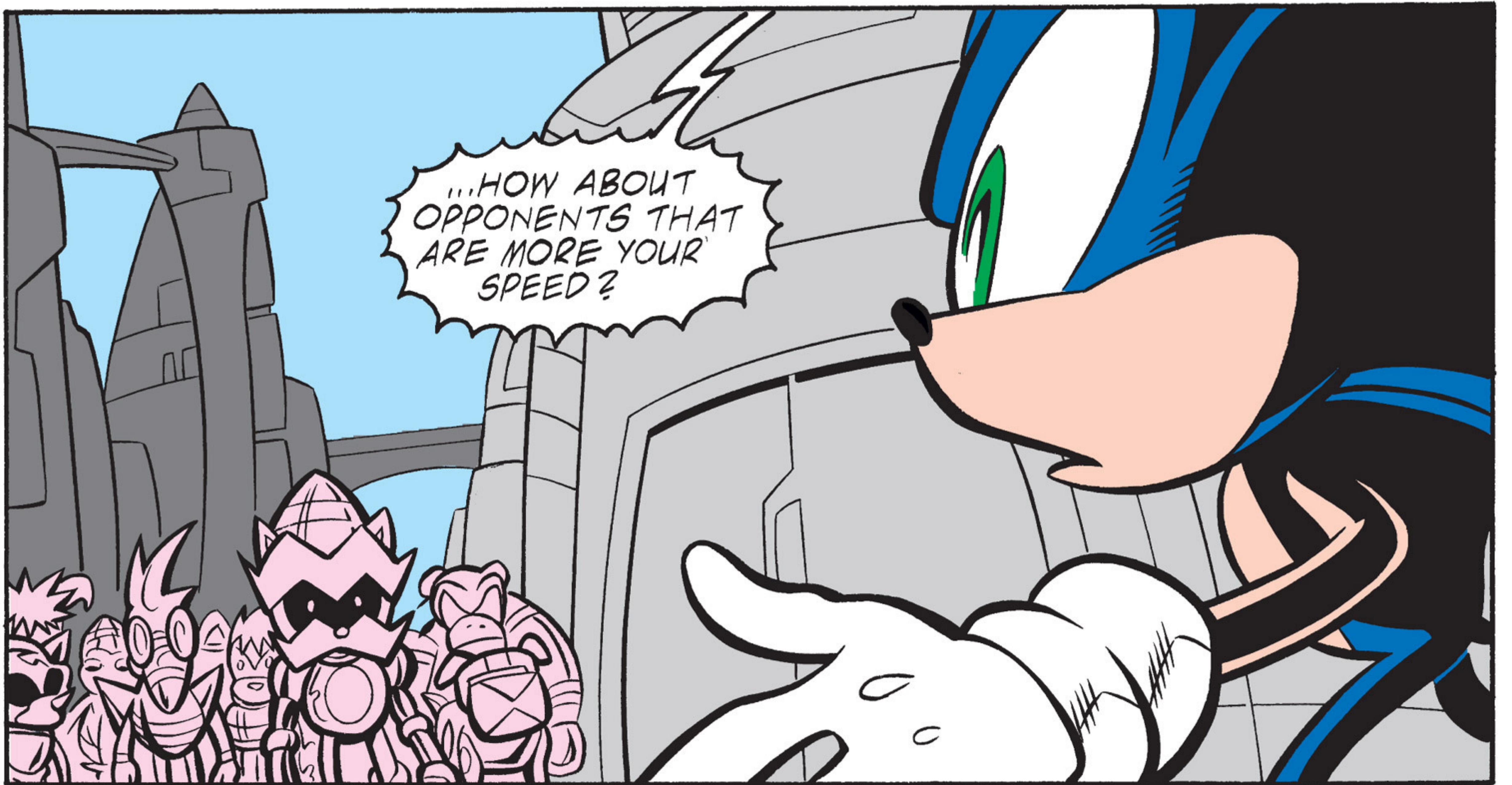
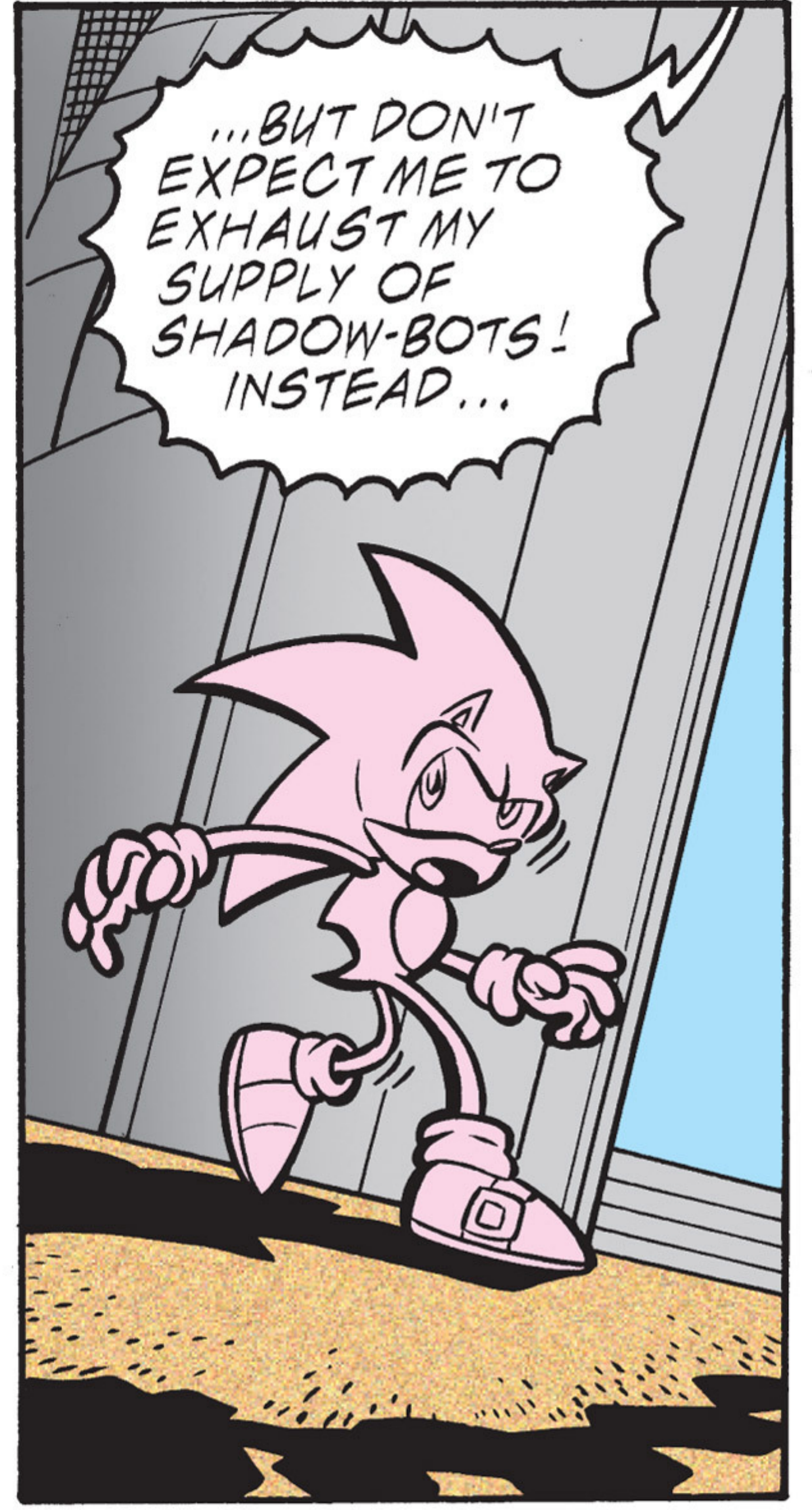
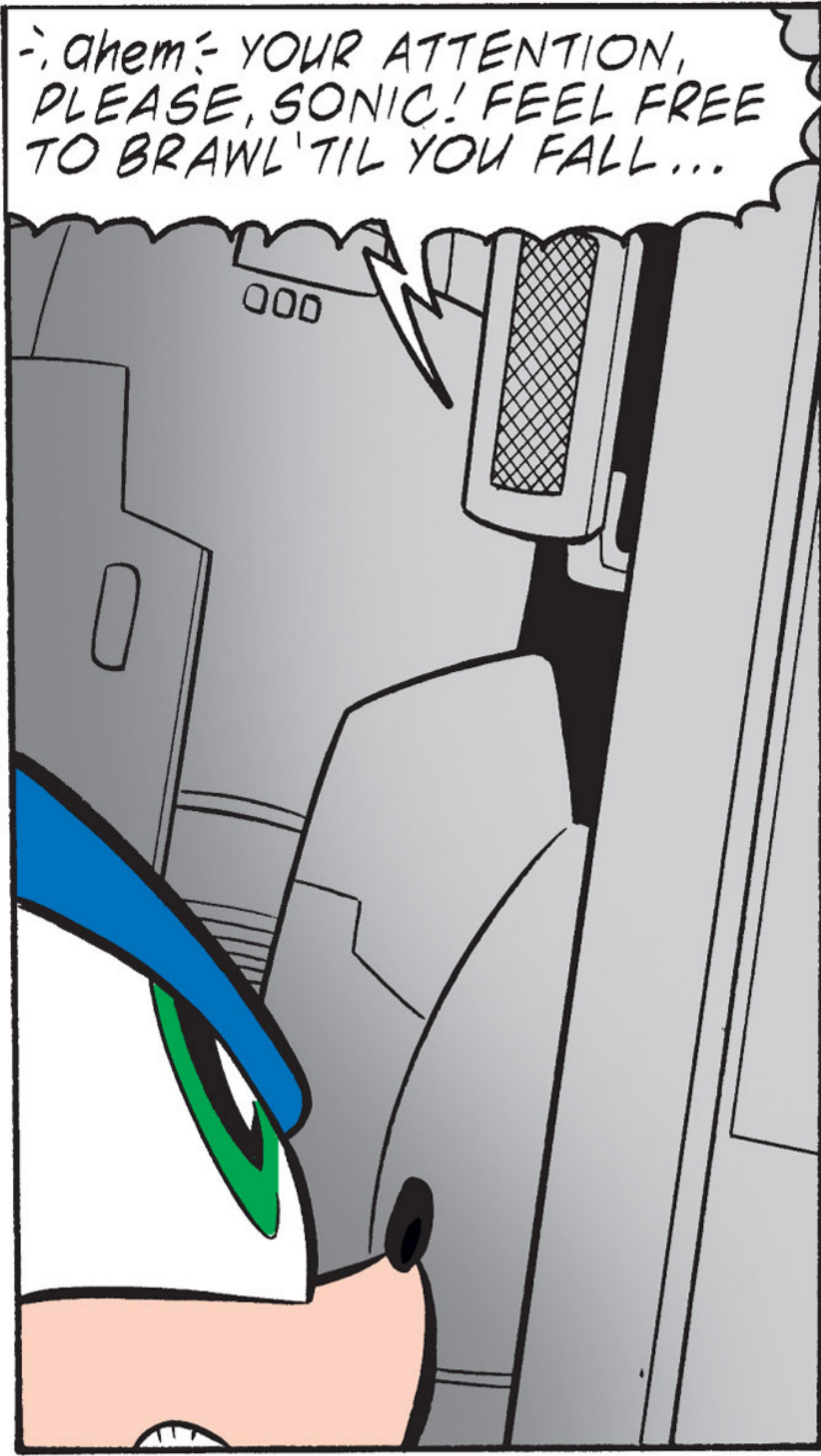


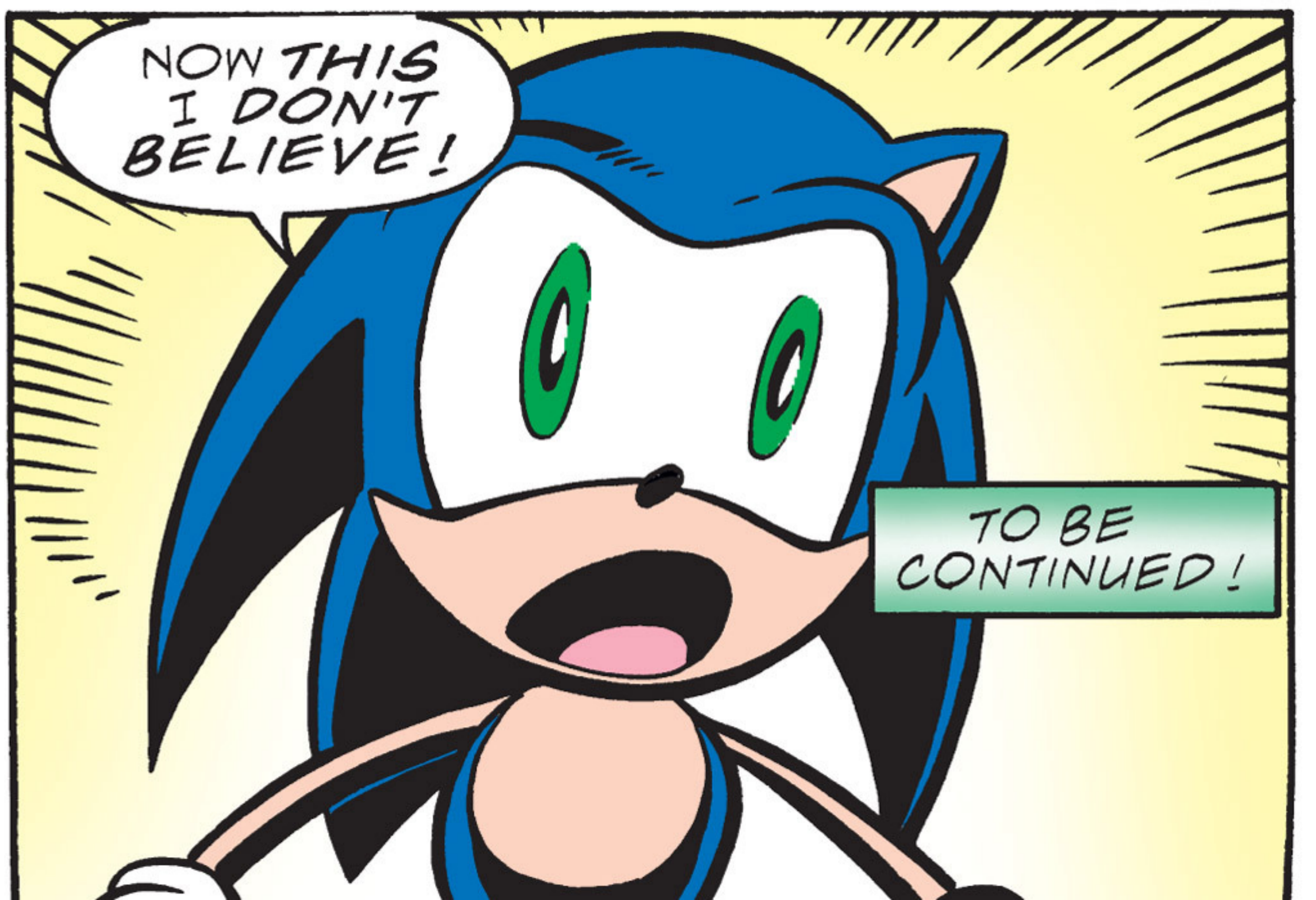
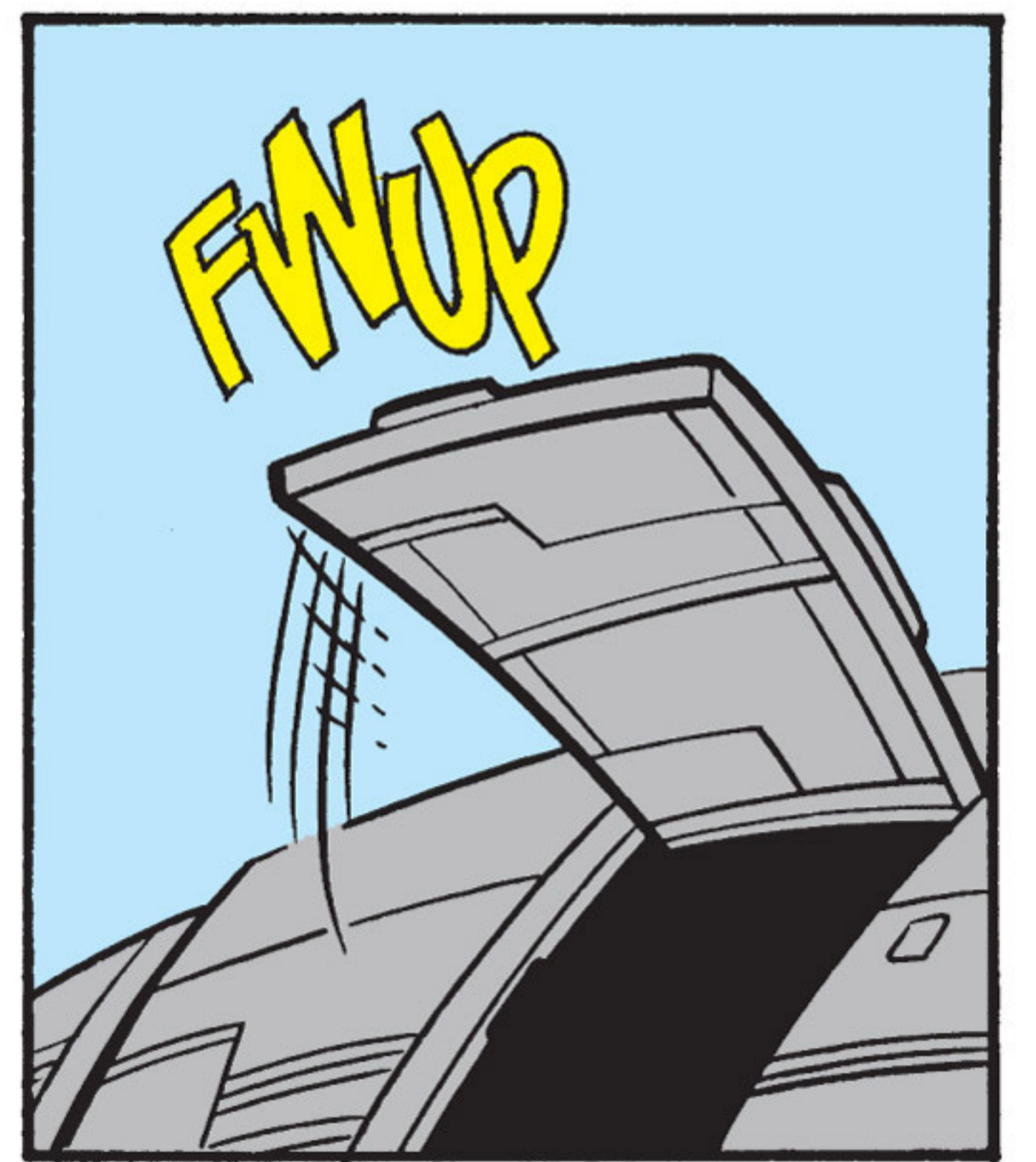
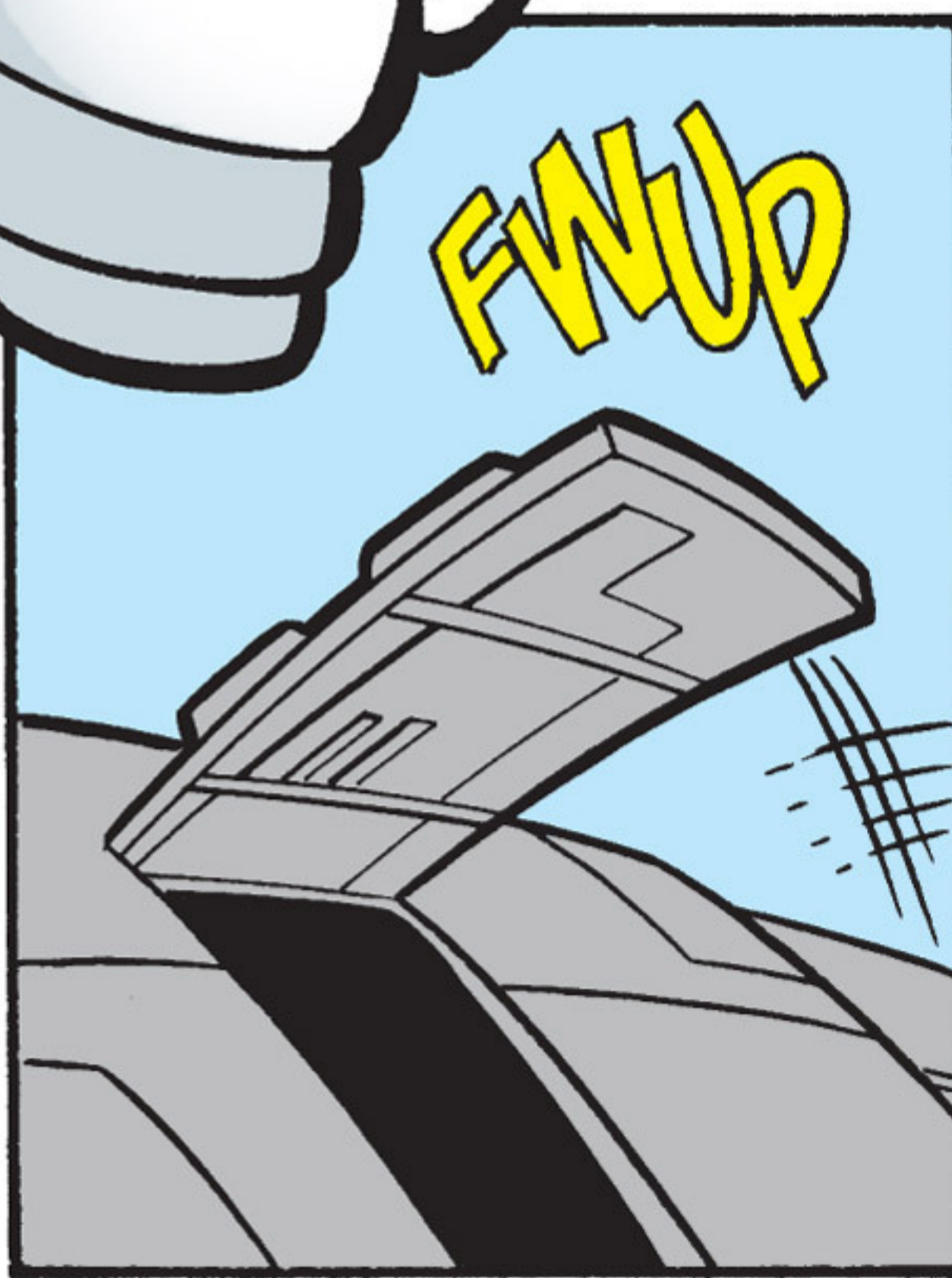
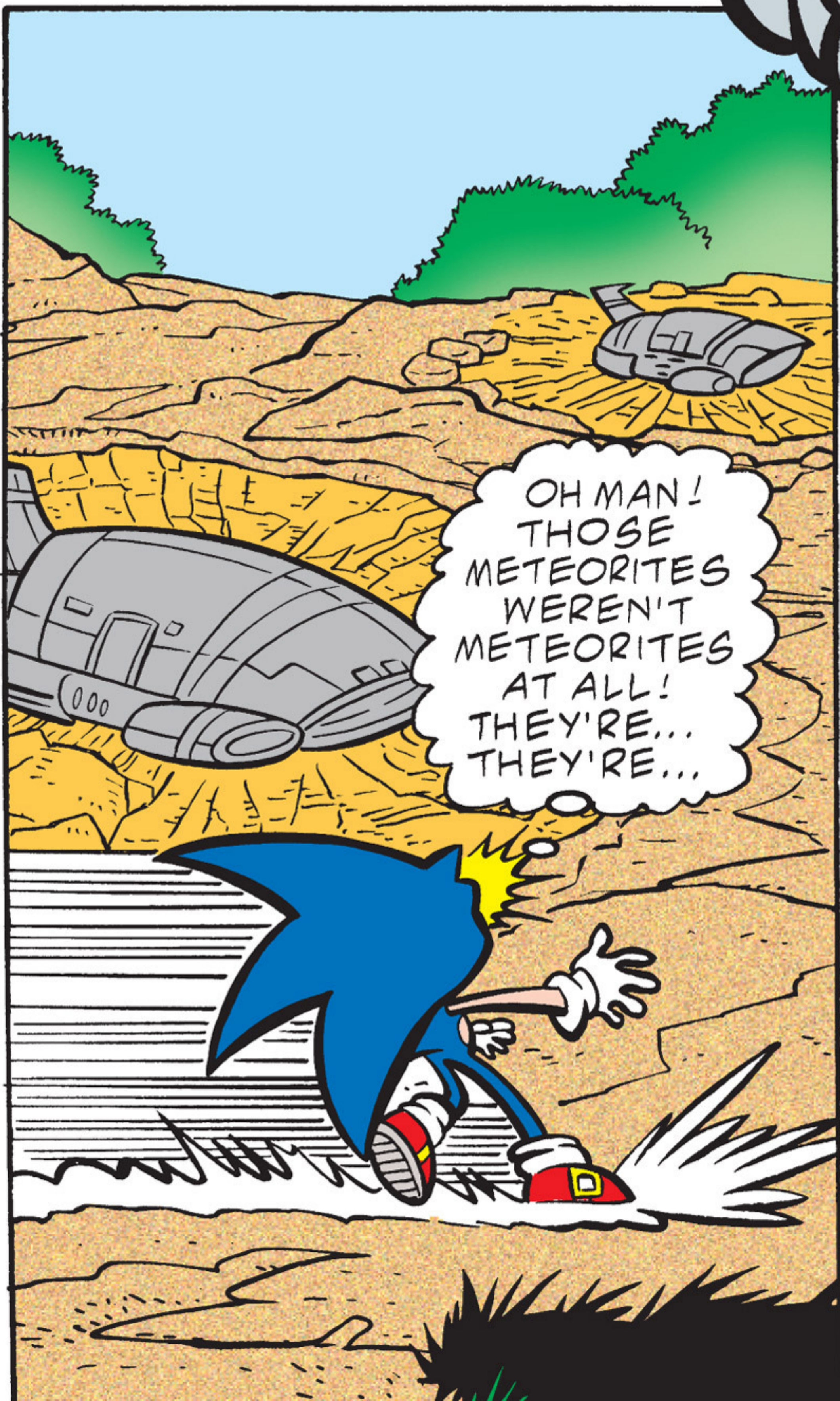
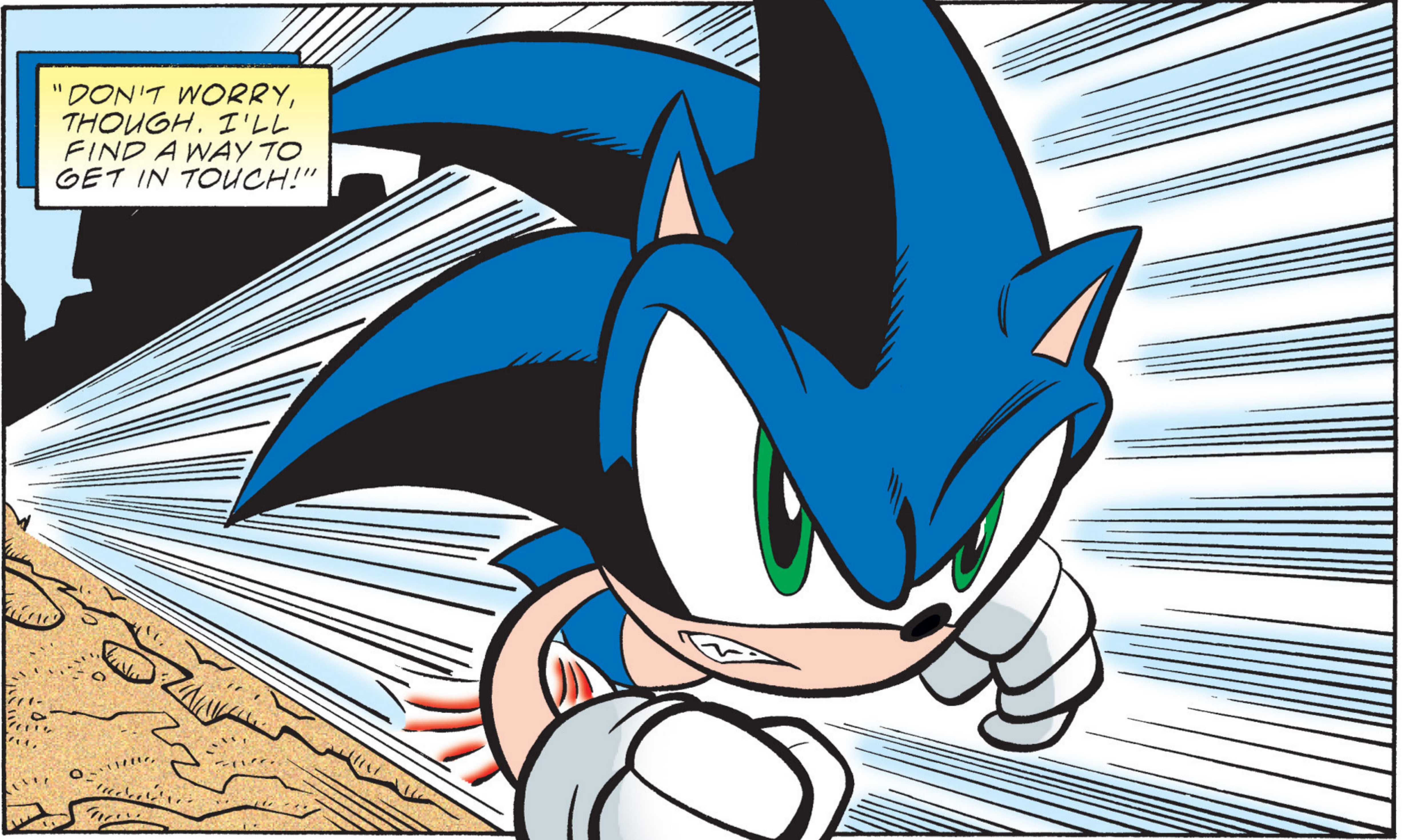
WELL, DON'T JUST STAND THERE--



-- LEMME HAVE IT!

HA HA HA HA HA





Born to the most noble of Echidna houses, the latest to continue the family heritage and responsibility as Guardian of The Floating Island, defender of all against the forces of evil from the world beyond as well as those who would threaten from within!

ARCHIE COMICS AND SEGA PRESENT... KNUCKLES THE ECHIDNA!

THE SETTING... A WATERING HOLE OF ILL REPUTE!
THE TIME... PRESENT DAY MOBIAN DAYLIGHT
SAVINGS! WHAT'S GOING ON... NEED YOU ASK?

...THEN THERE WAS
THE JOB I WAS ESPECIALLY
PROUD OF!

FASTEST SUCKER
YOU EVER SAW!

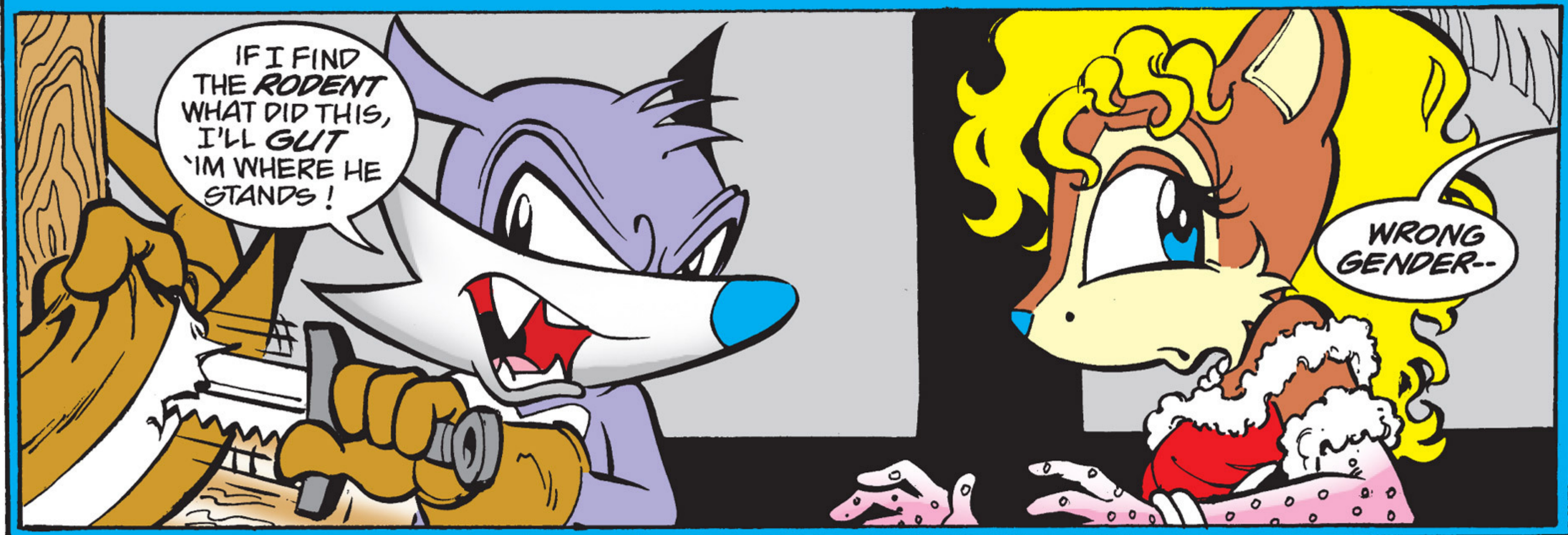
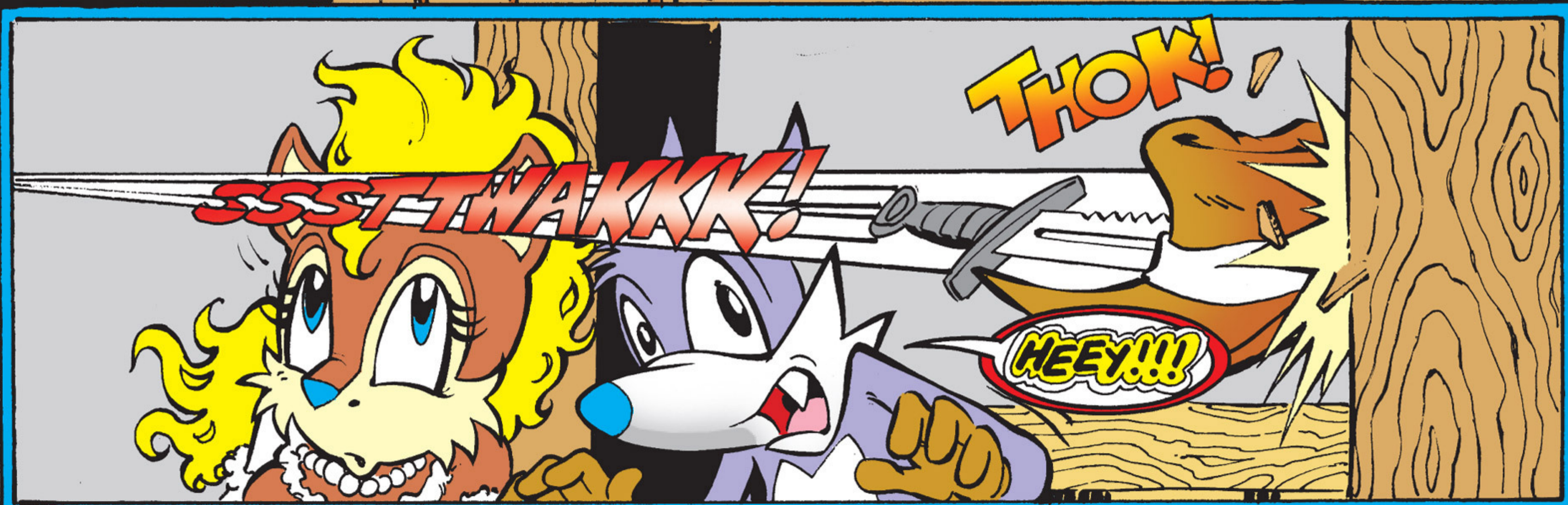
A BLUE
HEDGEHOG,
HE WAS!

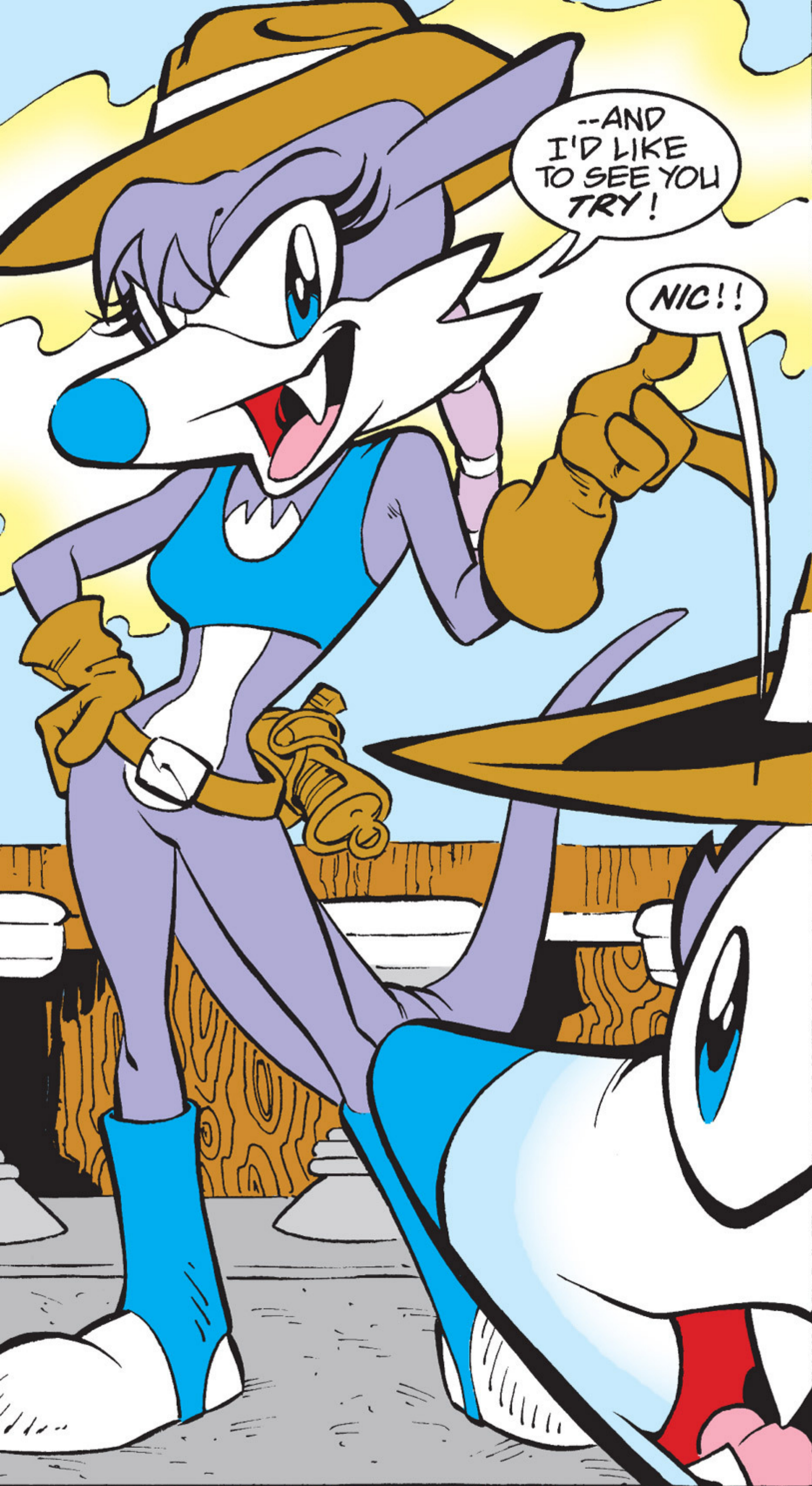
BUT HE HADN'T
EVER RUN INTO NACK
THE WEASEL
BEFORE!

NEITHER
HAVE I!

YOU SHOULD
COME AROUND MORE
OFTEN!

KEN PENDERS- WRITER STEVEN BUTLER-PENCILER
PAM EKLUND- INKER VICKIE WILLIAMS- LETTERER
FRANK GAGLIARDO- COLORIST
JUSTIN GABRIE- EDITOR





--AND I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!

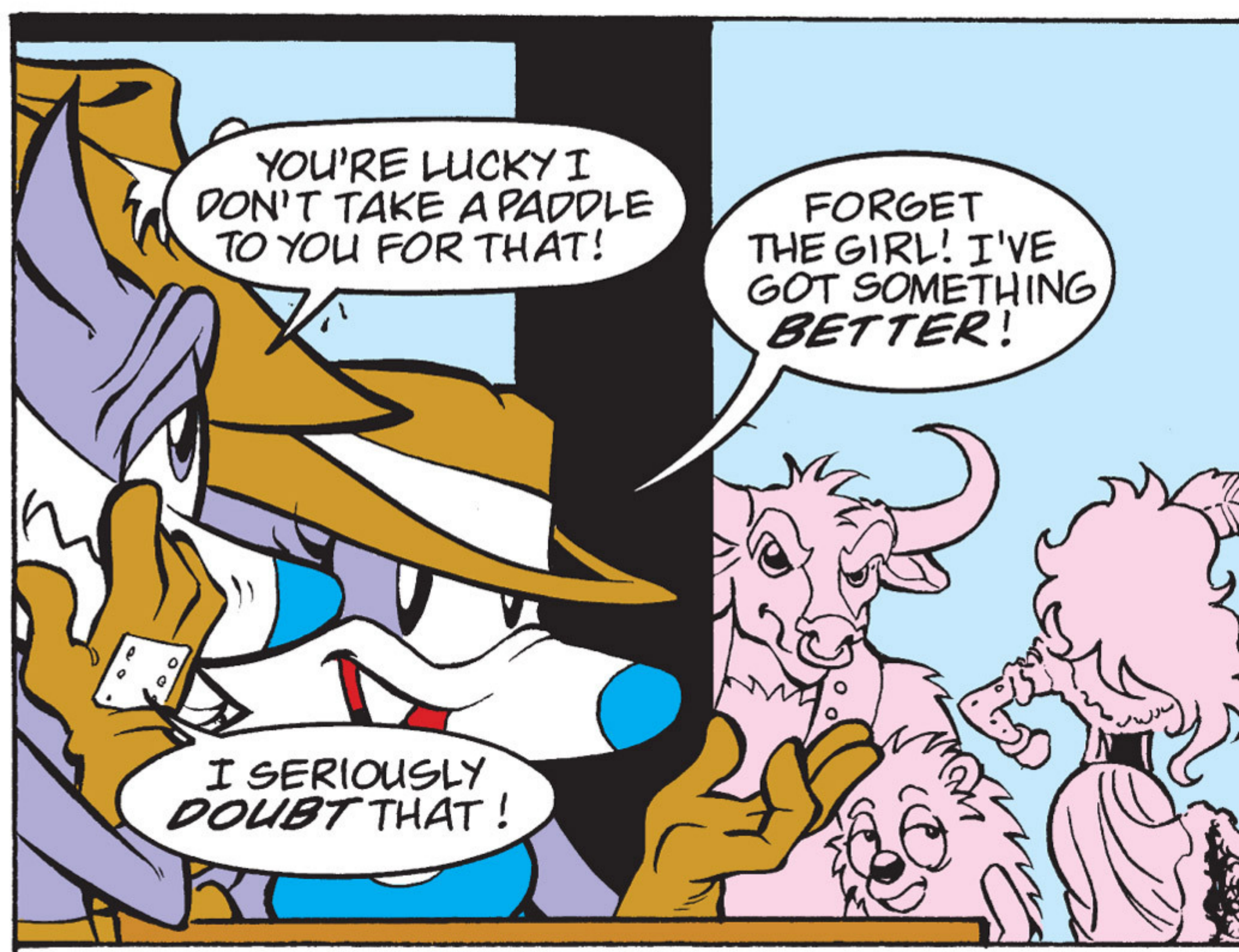
NIC!!



YOU NEVER SAID ANYTHING ABOUT BEING MARRIED!

WHAT SORT OF GIRL DO YOU THINK I AM?

BUT I'M NOT-- OOW!!



YOU'RE LUCKY I DON'T TAKE A PADDLE TO YOU FOR THAT!

FORGET THE GIRL! I'VE GOT SOMETHING BETTER!

I SERIOUSLY DOUBT THAT!



WE'VE BEEN HIRED FOR A JOB!

"WE?" I WORK SOLO!

IF I COULD DO THIS ALONE, I WOULDN'T BE HERE, EITHER!

WHO'S THE CATCH?



HIM!

AND THE REWARD IS A KING'S RANSOM!

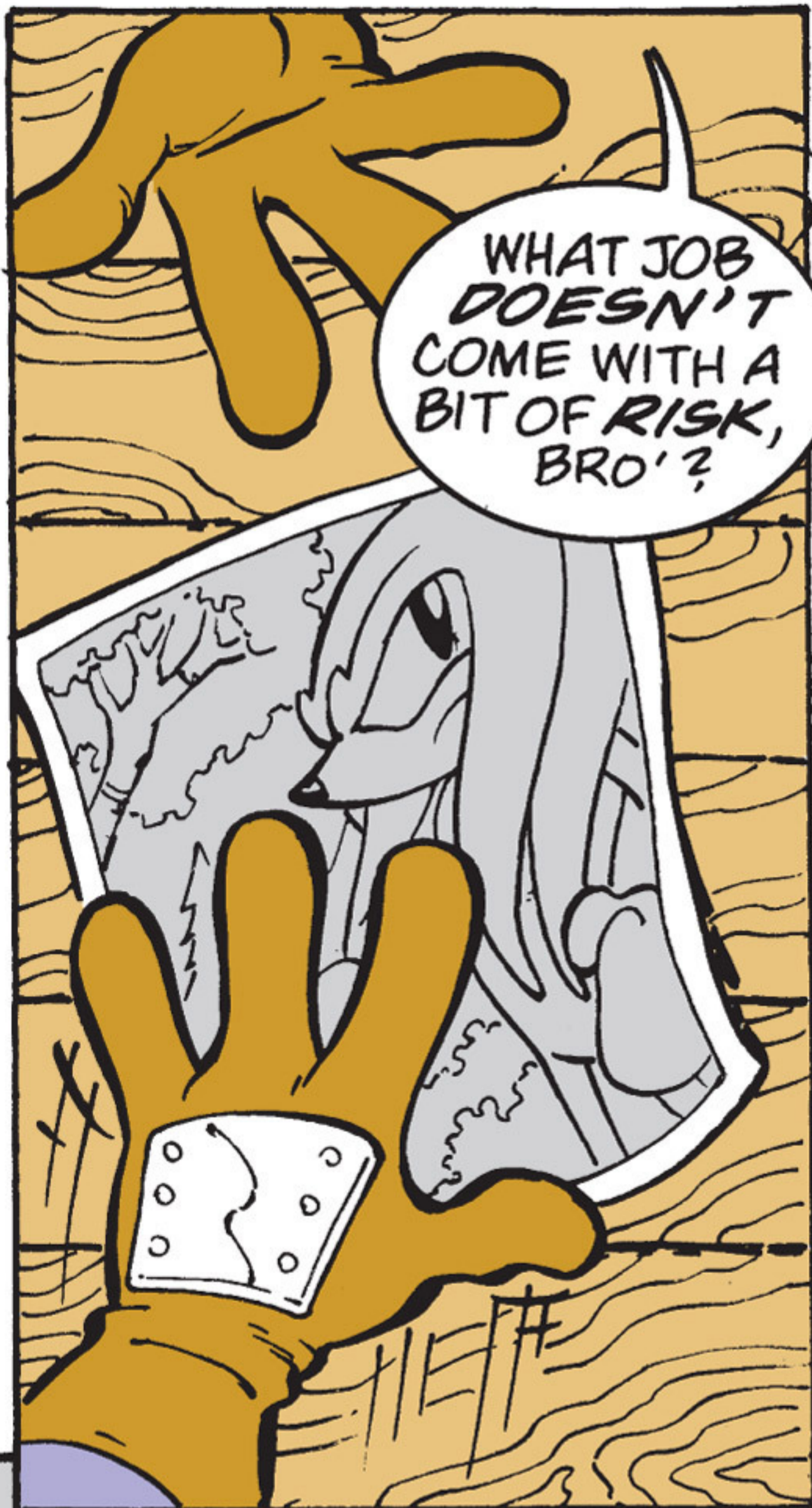
SO, ARE YOU IN OR OUT?



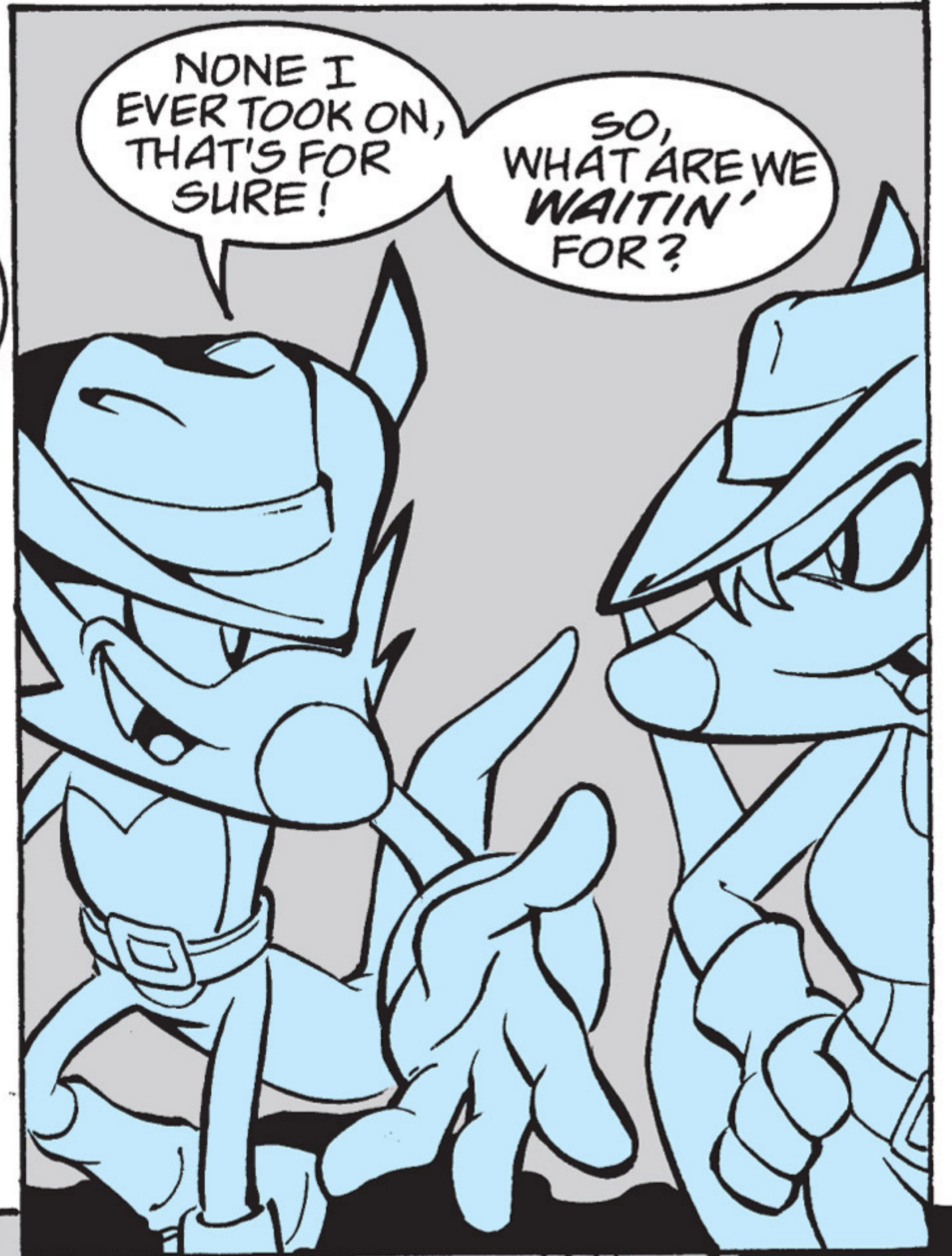
SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT, SIS!

THE ECHIDNAS AREN'T RENOWNED FOR INVOLVING OUTSIDERS WITH THEIR INTERNAL AFFAIRS!

SOMEONE'S HOLDIN' OUT ON YOU BIG TIME!

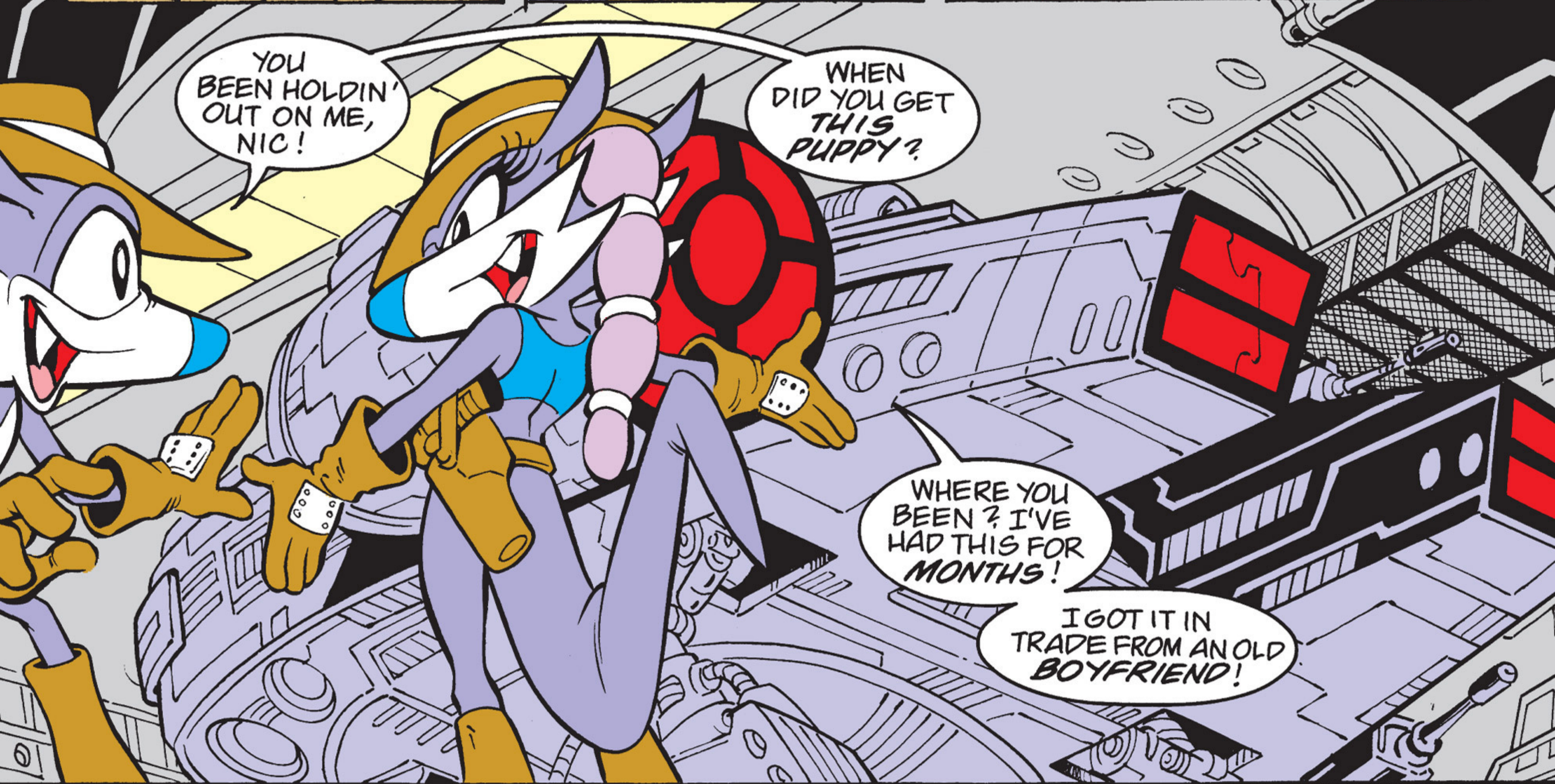


WHAT JOB DOESN'T COME WITH A BIT OF RISK, BRO'?



NONE I EVER TOOK ON, THAT'S FOR SURE!

SO, WHAT ARE WE WAITIN' FOR?

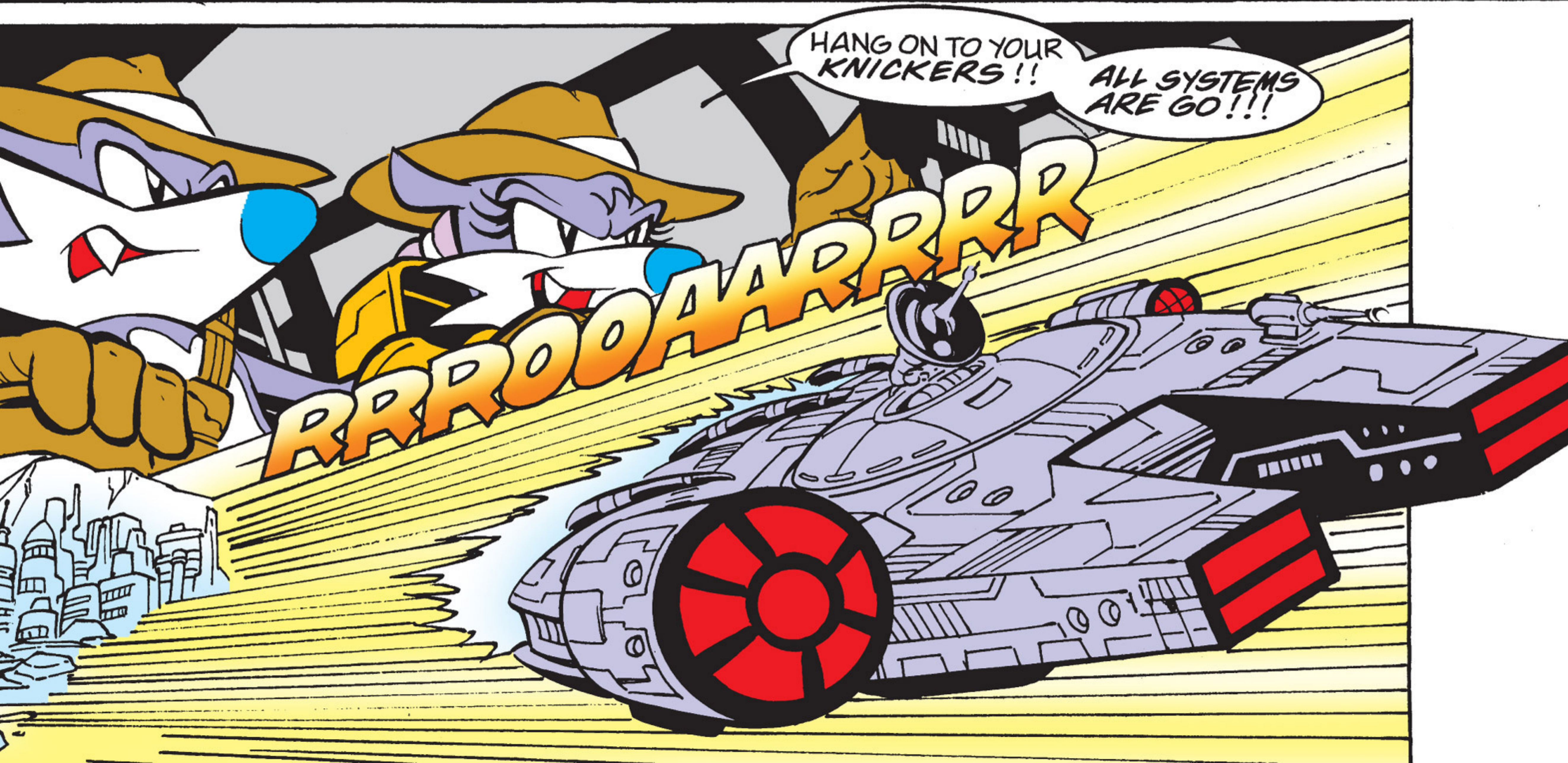


YOU BEEN HOLDIN' OUT ON ME, NIC!

WHEN DID YOU GET THIS PUPPY?

WHERE YOU BEEN? I'VE HAD THIS FOR MONTHS!

I GOT IT IN TRADE FROM AN OLD BOYFRIEND!



HANG ON TO YOUR KNICKERS!!

ALL SYSTEMS ARE GO!!!

RRROOARRRR

JUST ONE QUESTION--

--YOU SURE THIS IS THE WAY TO THE FLOATING ISLAND?

BUT--

WE'RE NOT?!

WE'RE NOT GOING THERE!

THE ISLAND'S NOT THE ONLY PLACE ON MOBIUS WHERE ECHIDNAS HANG OUT!

I WAS GIVEN DIRECTIONS WHERE TO GO AND THEY WOULD TAKE OVER AT THE RENDEZVOUS POINT!

SINCE WHEN?

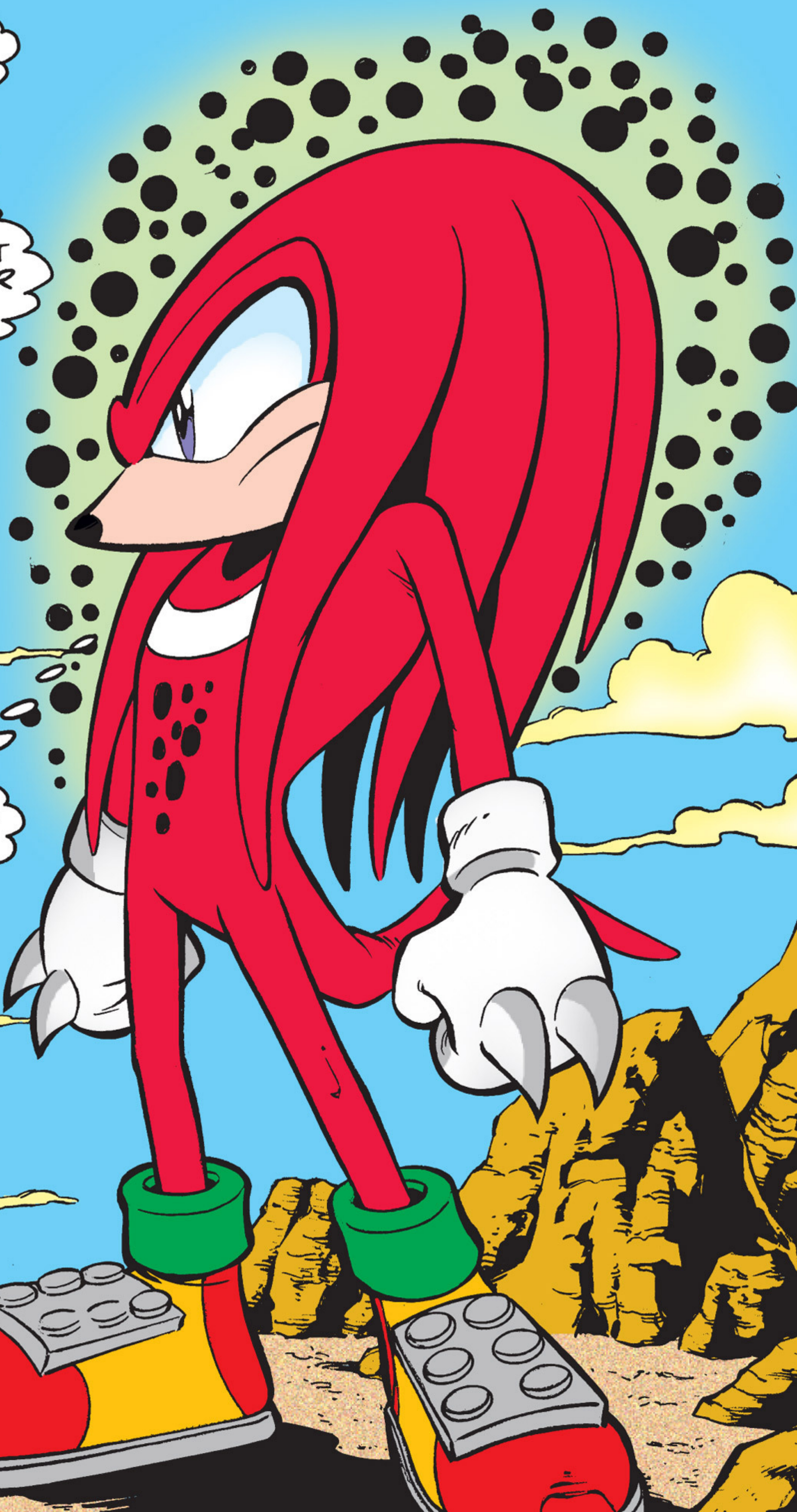
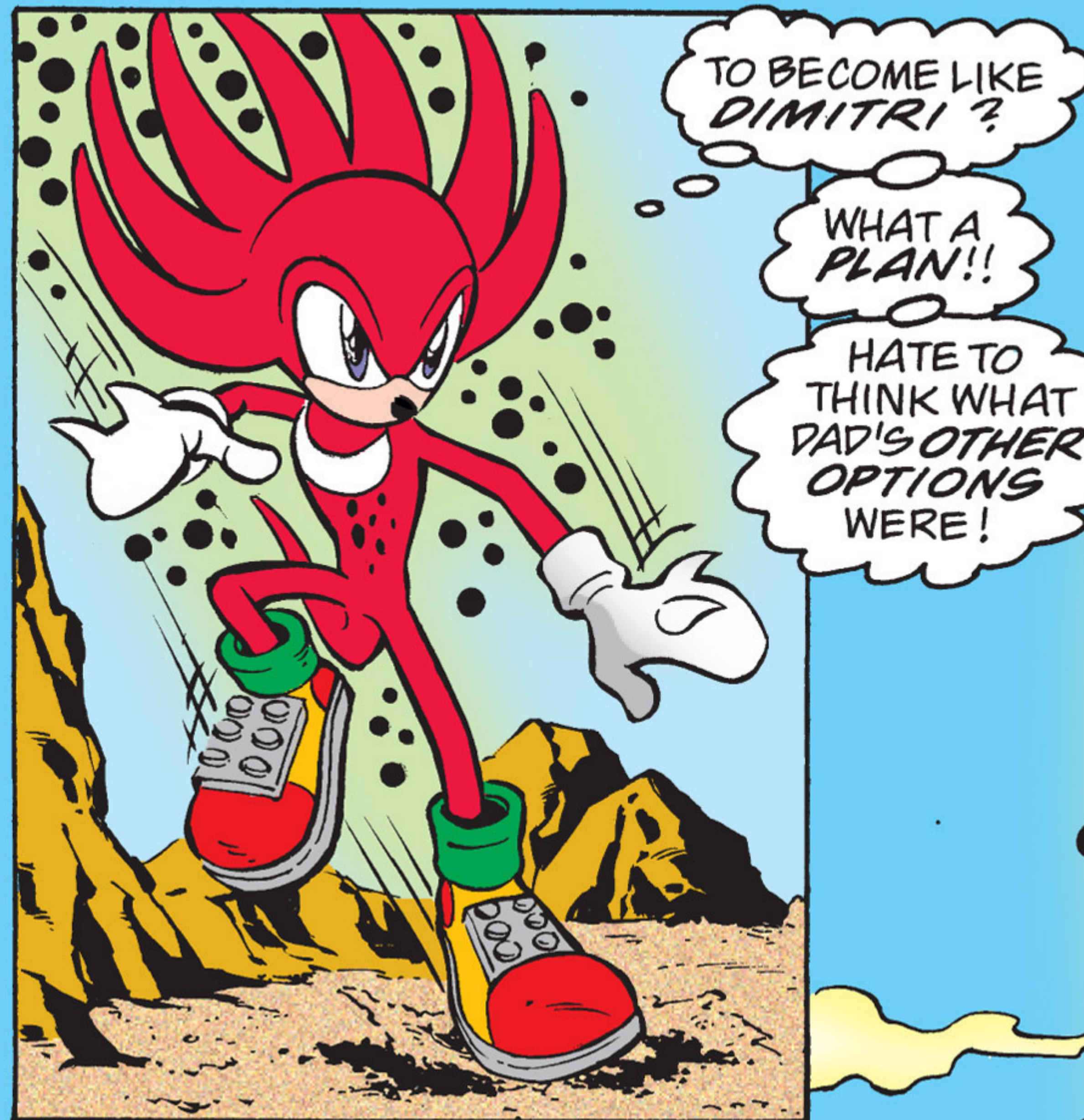
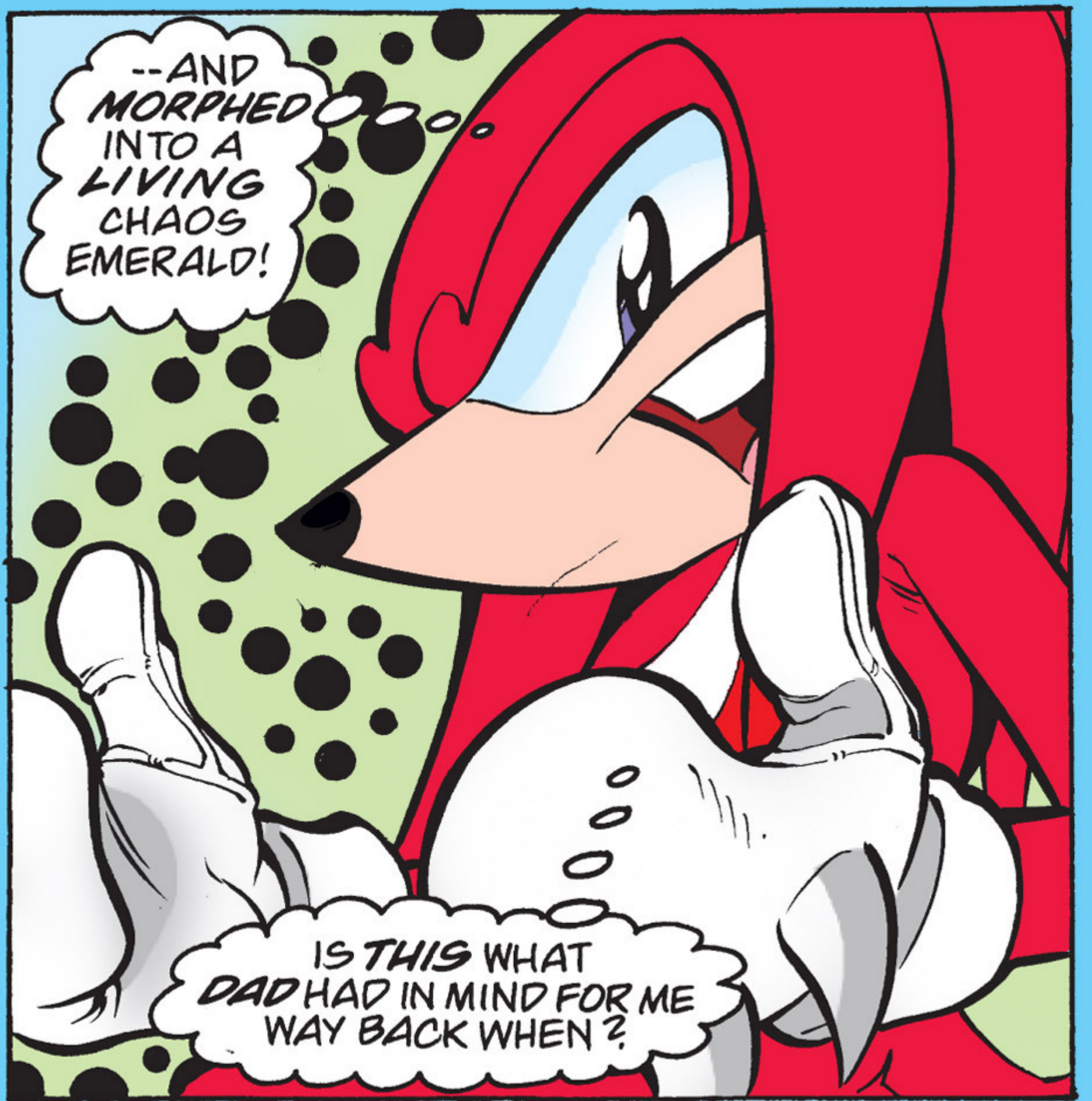
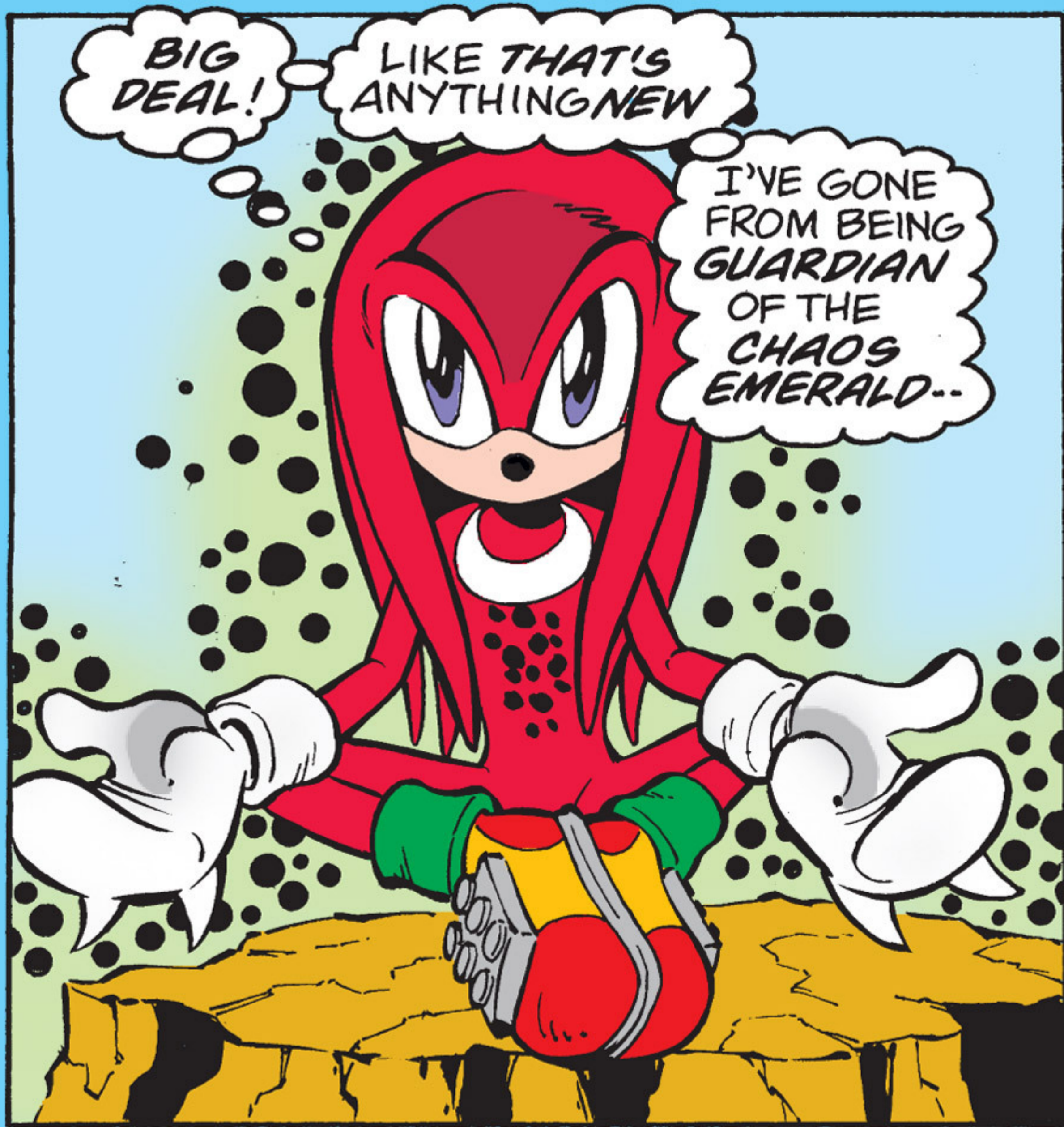
LIKE FOREVER! AT LEAST THAT'S WHAT THEY TOLD ME!

THEY'RE REAL BIG INTO PRIVACY!

LET'S JUST HOPE YOU HAVEN'T BITTEN OFF MORE THAN YOU CAN HANDLE!

WEIRD!

GOT A BAD FEELING ALL OF A SUDDEN!



HIRED GUNS

"...WHEREVER IT IS!"

I DON'T GET IT!

THE COORDINATES THE ECHIDNAS GAVE ME ARE BEYOND THE ISLAND WE'RE PASSING OVER!

MAYBE IT'S A TEST TO SEE IF YOU'RE WORTH THE MONEY!

BAD-HOOOM!

WE'RE BUCKING!

YOU SURE YOU KNOW HOW TO PILOT THIS THING?!

I'M NOT DOING ANYTHING!!!

THE GUIDANCE SYSTEM HAS GONE AUTOMATIC!!

YOU SURE YOU KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DEALING WITH, NIC?!

AT THIS POINT, I'M NOT SO SURE!

HEY! THAT HUNK 'A DIRT WASN'T THERE A SECOND AGO!

ATTENTION, BOUNTY-ONE!! THIS IS ALBION FLIGHT CONTROL!!

WE HAVE ASSUMED CONTROL OF YOUR VEHICLE--

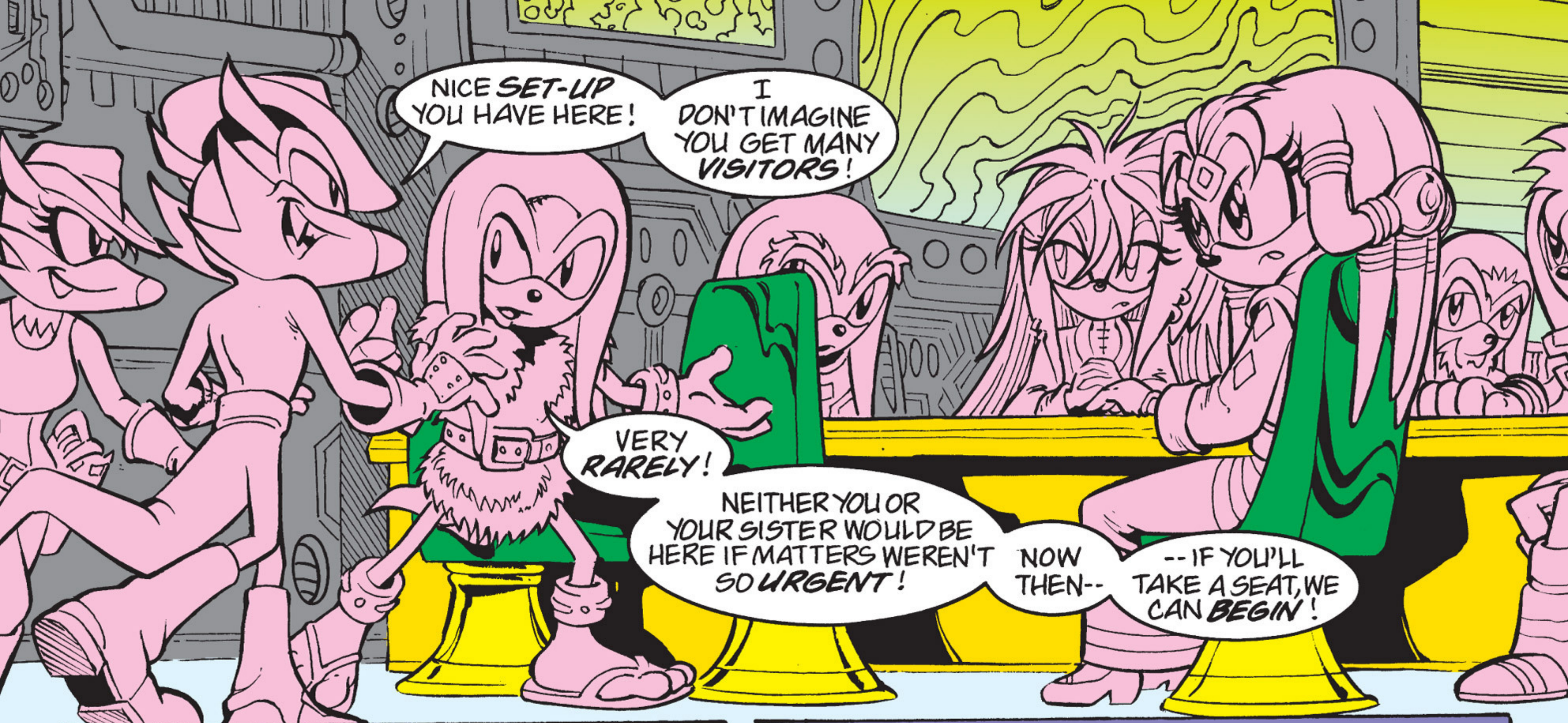
RIGHT ON THE MONEY! THESE GUYS DON'T MESS AROUND!

JUST REMEMBER, THEY CAME TO ME FIRST!

--AND ARE NOW SENDING THE DATA INTO YOUR SYSTEM TO BRING YOU IN NICE AND SMOOTH!

HAPPY LANDINGS-- AND WELCOME TO ALBION!

WHOOOSH!



NICE *SET-UP* YOU HAVE HERE!

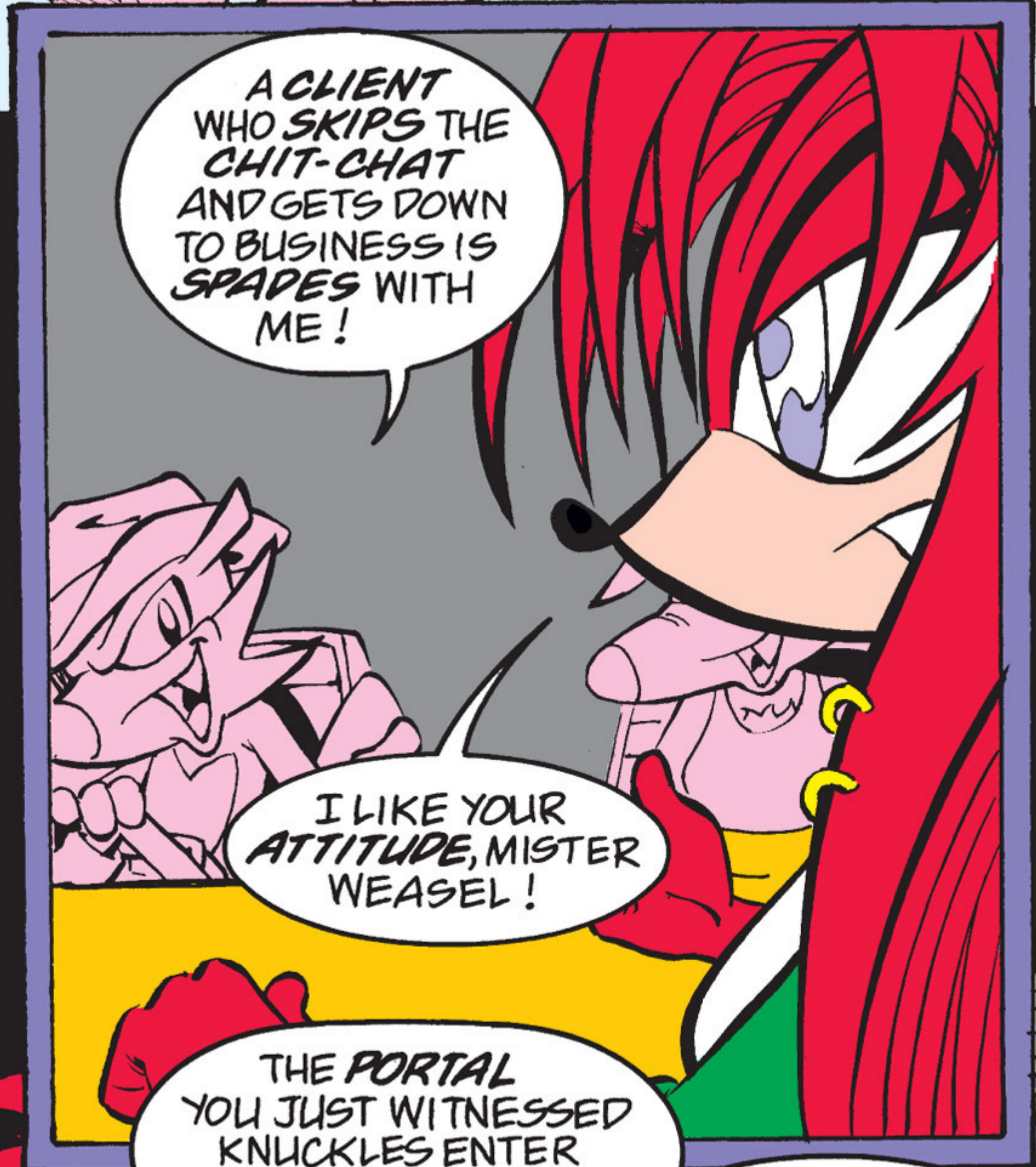
I DON'T IMAGINE YOU GET MANY VISITORS!

VERY RARELY!

NEITHER YOU OR YOUR SISTER WOULD BE HERE IF MATTERS WEREN'T SO URGENT!

NOW THEN--

-- IF YOU'LL TAKE A SEAT, WE CAN BEGIN!

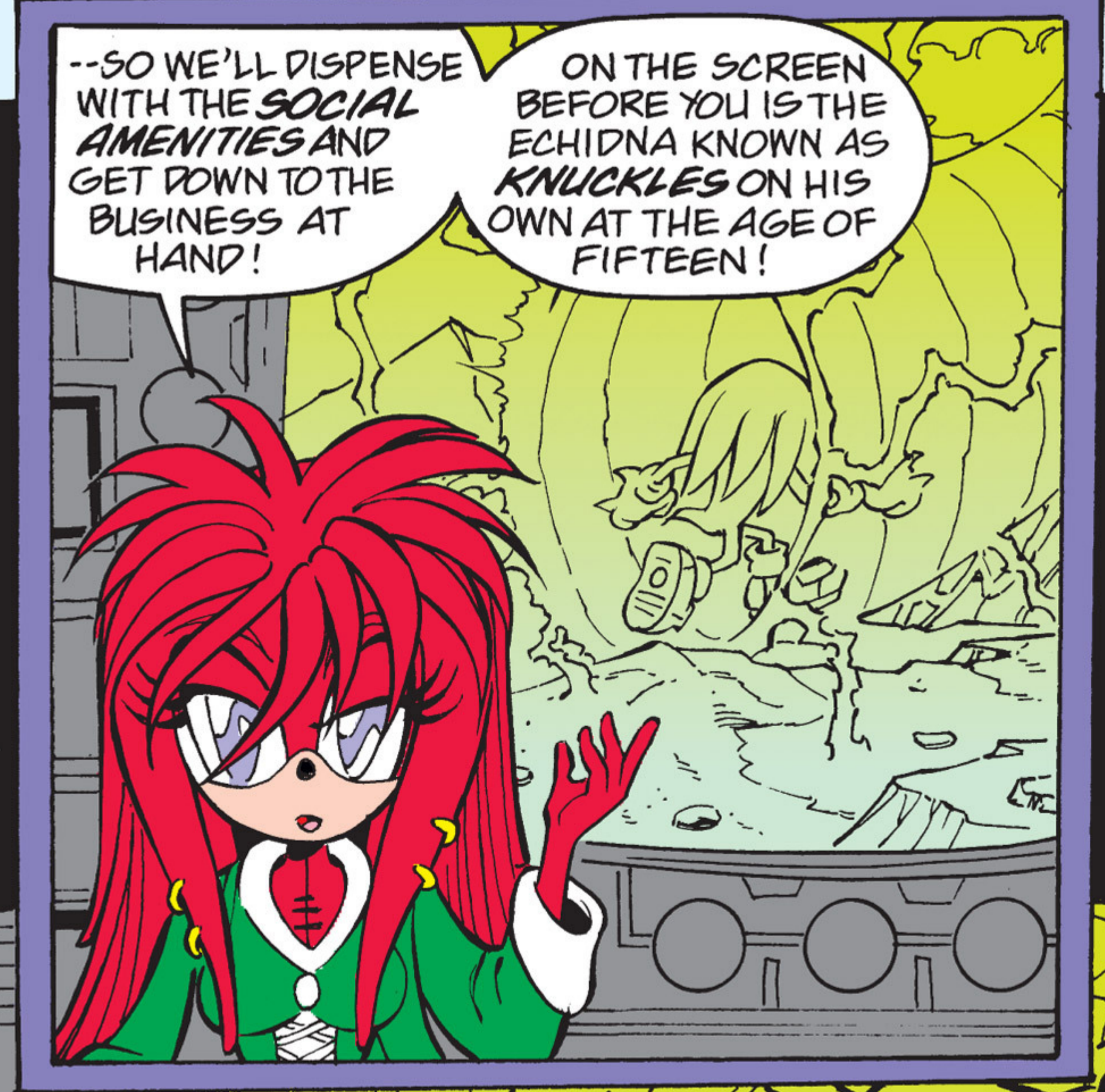


A CLIENT WHO *SKIPS* THE CHIT-CHAT AND GETS DOWN TO BUSINESS IS *SPADES* WITH ME!

I LIKE YOUR *ATTITUDE*, MISTER WEASEL!

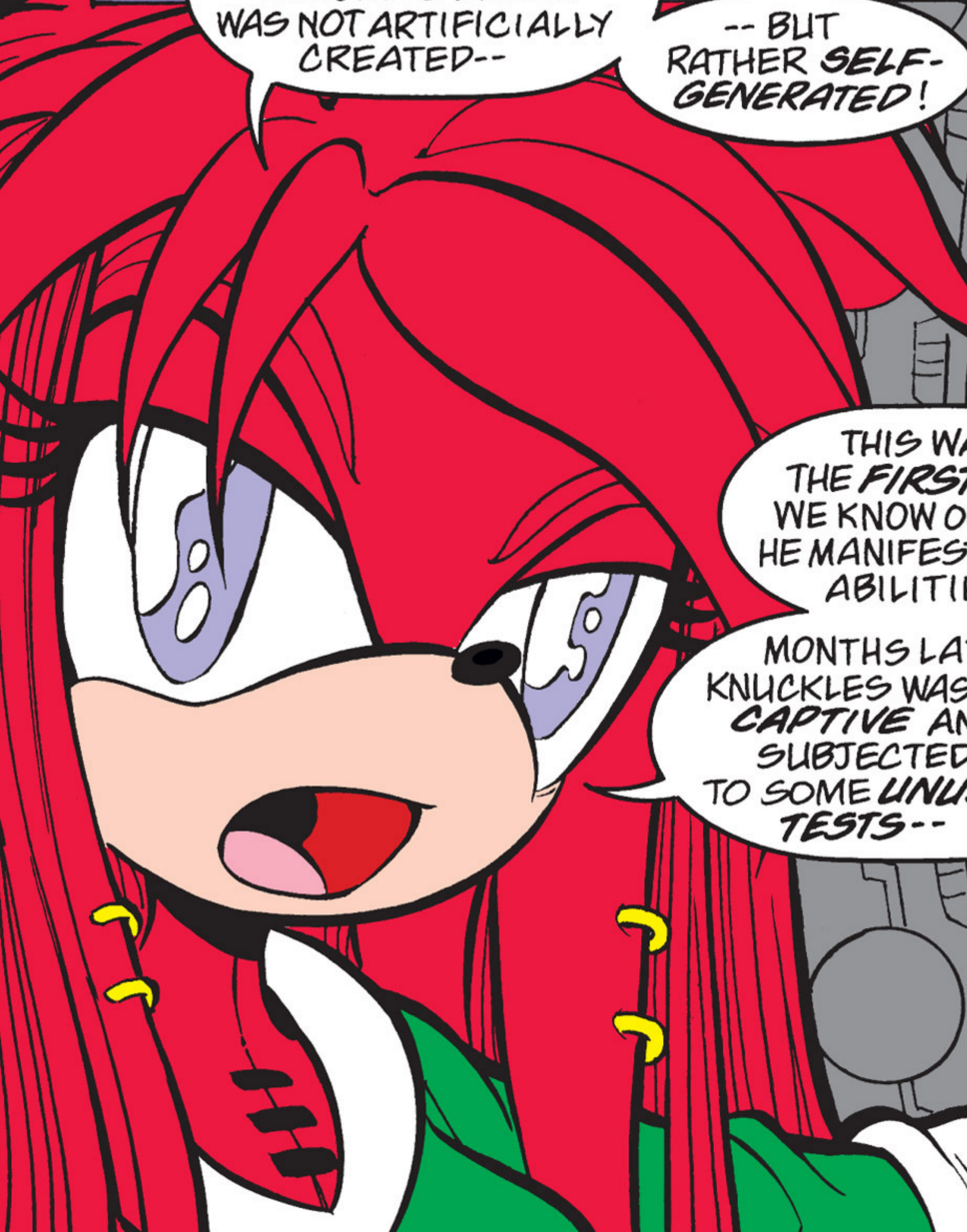
THE *PORTAL* YOU JUST WITNESSED *KNUCKLES* ENTER WAS NOT ARTIFICIALLY CREATED--

-- BUT RATHER *SELF-GENERATED*!



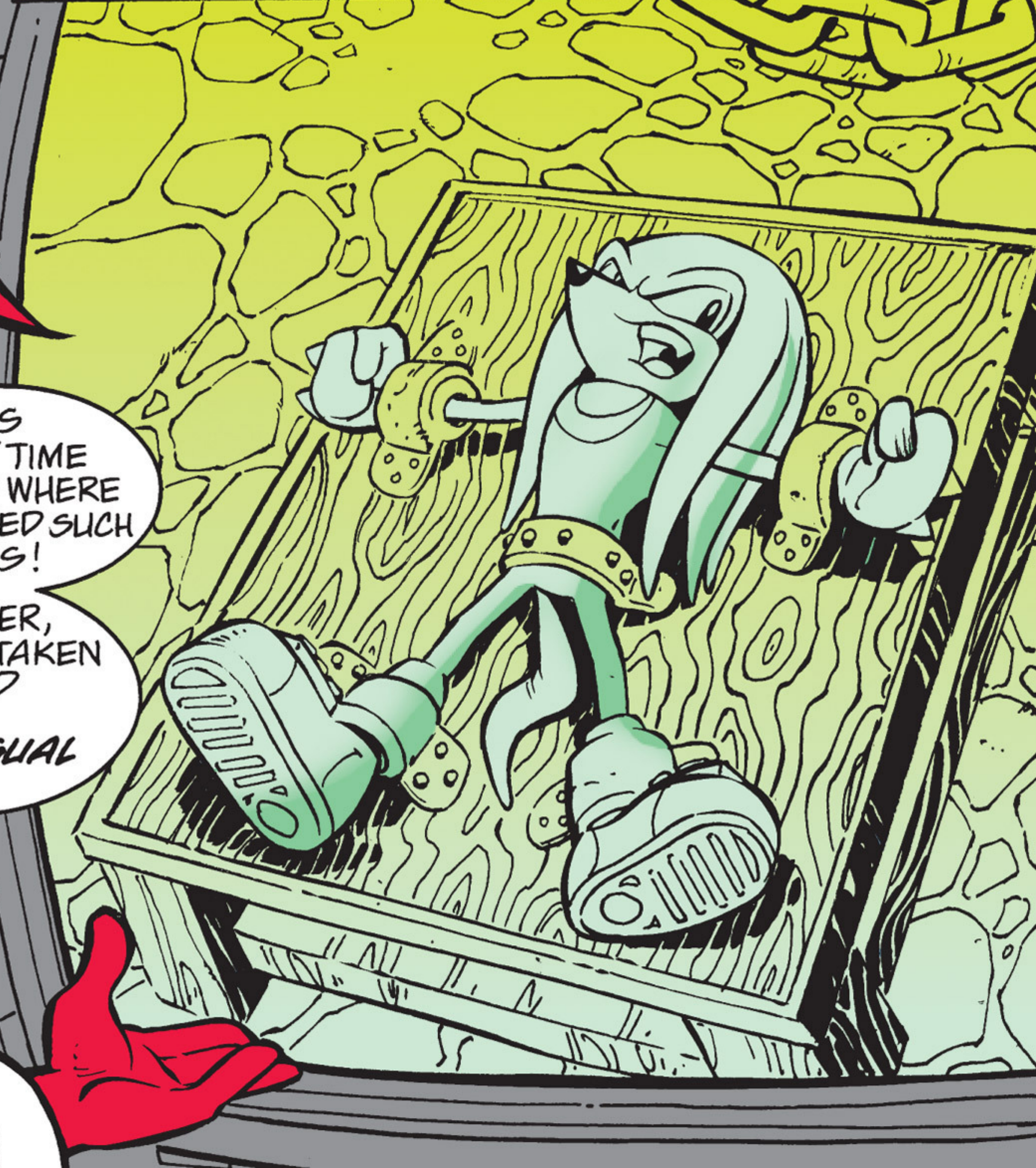
--SO WE'LL DISPENSE WITH THE *SOCIAL AMENITIES* AND GET DOWN TO THE BUSINESS AT HAND!

ON THE SCREEN BEFORE YOU IS THE ECHIDNA KNOWN AS *KNUCKLES* ON HIS OWN AT THE AGE OF FIFTEEN!



THIS WAS THE *FIRST* TIME WE KNOW OF WHERE HE MANIFESTED SUCH ABILITIES!

MONTHS LATER, *KNUCKLES* WAS TAKEN CAPTIVE AND SUBJECTED TO SOME UNUSUAL TESTS--



-- WITH UNEXPECTED RESULTS!

KNUCKLES' LATENT ABILITIES WERE NOW FULLY ACTIVE, EVEN THOUGH HE WAS NOT COGNIZANT OF THAT FACT!

RECENTLY, KNUCKLES LEFT US, UNDER CIRCUMSTANCES WHICH HASTENED FURTHER MUTATION--

-- MAKING HIM A DANGER TO ANY HE COMES INTO CONTACT WITH!

SO, ARE YOU ASKING US TO TAKE HIM OUT?

ONLY AS A LAST RESORT!

WE'D MUCH PREFER HE BE RETURNED TO US SO WE CAN DEAL WITH HIS PROBLEM!

WE'LL DOUBLE THE BONUS IF YOU DO BRING HIM BACK ALIVE!

THINK THEY'RE UP TO THE TASK, GALA-NA?

THEY'RE JUST THE SMOKE SCREEN, MYKOL!

ONCE THEY LEAD US TO KNUCKLES--

-- ONLY THEN WILL WE DIRTY OUR HANDS!

NEXT: THE BIG CAT AND MOUSE! (-- WHERE NOTHING IS AS IT SEEMS!)

ADIOS MUCHACHOS. STEVEN BUTLER '00